

# Fruits Basket™

SHOGAKU  
© TOKYOPOP

The #1 selling  
shojo manga  
in America!



17

Shojo Manga

# Fruits Basket™

SHOGA KAWA  
© TOKYOPOP

The #1 selling  
shojo manga  
in America!



17

Shojo Manga



# Fruits Basket

TM

The #1 selling  
shojo manga  
in America!



17

TOKYOPOP

FRUITS BASKET

# Fruits Basket

TKMPOP

The #1 selling  
shojo manga  
in America!



17

Shojo Manga

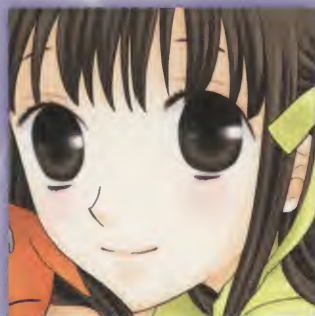
Akito has more than skeletons hiding in the closet—the curse, dear reader, is not the only reason Kureno won't leave Akito. And who can make Arisa understand Kureno's devotion to Akito? Graduation is approaching, so everyone needs answers! It's all right inside this volume of the super-popular *Fruits Basket*, the winner of Best Manga at the inaugural American Anime Award Show!



Akito has more than skeletons hiding in the closet—the curse, dear reader, is not the only reason Kureno won't leave Akito. And who can make Arisa understand Kureno's devotion to Akito? Graduation is approaching, so everyone needs answers! It's all right inside this volume of the super-popular *Fruits Basket*, the winner of Best Manga at the inaugural American Anime Award Show!







ISBN 978-1-59816-799-3



9 781598 167993

5 0 9 9 9



ISBN 978-1-59816-799-3



9 781598 167993

50999



ISBN 978-1-59816-799-3



9 781598 167993

50999











# Fruits Basket™

Volume 17



Natsuki Takaya

# Fruits Basket™

## Table of Contents

Chapter 96 .....	12
Chapter 97 .....	45
Chapter 98 .....	75
Chapter 99 .....	105
Chapter 100 .....	136
Chapter 101 .....	196
Fans Basket .....	202
Cosplay Special .....	208

Filler  
Sketch





# STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!



# Fruits Basket Characters

## Mabudachi Trio

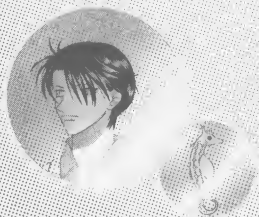


### Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.

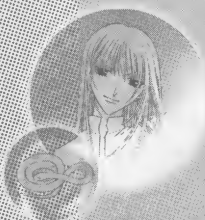
### Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



### Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.



### Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

### Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.

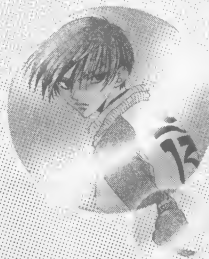
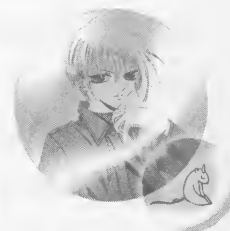


### Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

### Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



### Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

### Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



# Fruits Basket Characters

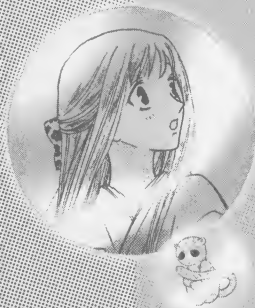
## Isuzu "Rin" Sohma, the Horse

She was once in a relationship with Hatsuharu (Haru)...and Tohru leaves her rather cold. Rin is full of pride, and she can't stand the amount of deference the other Sohma family members give Akito.



## Ritsu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this "she" is really a he!! Crossdressing calms his nerves.



## Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.



## Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.

## Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks. His mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse. His little sister, Momo, has been kept from him most of her life.



## Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out. He was once in a relationship with Rin.

## Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.







Chapter 96

# Fruits Basket





A  
LIBER-  
ATION...

IT CAME  
ALL TOO  
QUICKLY.

...AND A  
CAGE.

AN END  
AND A  
BEGINNING.

Filler  
Sketch



It would be kinda  
cool if Akito was  
a Mogeta fan.

Mogeta  
plushie, on  
sale now!

I CAN  
EVEN BE A  
PILLOW!  
MOGETA!

OH.

AKITO  
LOOKS  
INTER-  
ESTED.

Yeah, right. (laugh)



"BECAUSE  
YOU'RE  
INFERIOR."

YOU KNOW  
THAT I  
DON'T  
MEAN IT.

YOU  
KNOW  
THAT,  
DON'T  
YOU?

...YES.

KURENO.

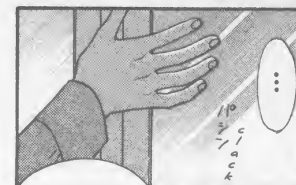
I KNOW I  
SAY NASTY  
THINGS  
ABOUT YOU  
SOMETIMES.

BUT YOU  
KNOW THAT I  
KNOW THAT  
I'M SAYING  
NASTY  
THINGS,  
RIGHT?

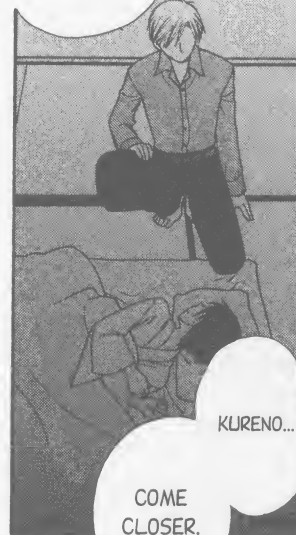
KURENO.

YOU'LL  
ALWAYS  
BE...

...BY MY  
SIDE,  
RIGHT?



YOU'RE  
STILL NOT  
FEELING  
WELL,  
AKITO?



KURENO...

COME  
CLOSER.



BE  
CLOSER  
TO ME.



KURENO.

I'M  
COLD...

AND THEY'RE MAKING US REHEARSE THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OUT THERE. DAMMIT!

IF THEY'RE GONNA LET US GRADUATE, THEY SHOULD LET US DECIDE IF WE REALLY NEED TO PRACTICE THE CEREMONY.

JUST PLAY ALONG.

IF I CATCH A COLD FROM PLAYING ALONG, I'M GONNA BE PISSED.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

MM? OH, Y'KNOW.

THE SKY'S SO BLUE, BUT IT'S SO COLD OUTSIDE.

OH--OF COURSE!

HURRY INSIDE, WILL YOU?

Man...

I HAVEN'T HAD ANY LUCK SINCE THIRD TERM.

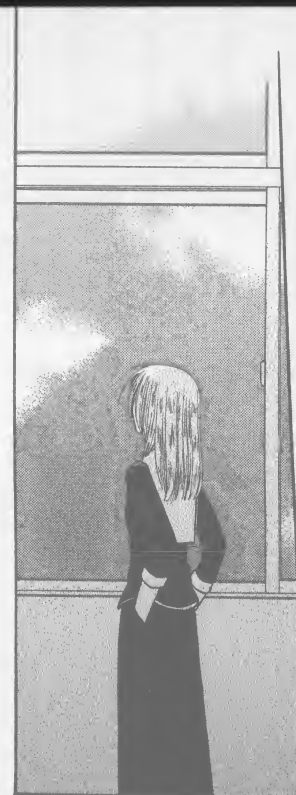
AND NEW YEAR'S TOTALLY FLEW BY.

hee hee.

INCIDENTALLY, I'VE NEVER ONCE HAD ONE OF THOSE.

IT'S TRUE THAT IDIOTS CAN'T CATCH COLD.

THAT SHOULD BOTHER YOU.



YES.

UO-CHAN?

# Fruits Basket 17

Pleased to meet you and hello. This is Takaya, presenting Volume 17. The cover is Hana-chan!

...Somehow it's been no time at all. I feel like time's passing by very quickly these days; I don't know if it's because I'm pushing forward or if it's because of my age. There are a lot of games on sale that I want to play, too, but I don't have the time, so I feel like they're piling up...

There may be people who think, "If you're not going to play it now, buy it later!" but I want to have it on hand. (How can I say what I mean here?) So that someday, when I have time, I can start playing. I wonder if anyone can understand that feeling (laugh).

Well then, please enjoy Fruits 17!











LUCKY.

I WANT  
HER TO  
PRAISE  
ME, TOO.



YUP!

ALL RIGHT--  
I'LL GO ON  
AHEAD TO  
SHIGURE'S  
HOUSE.

OKAY!

TOHRU,  
TOHRU!

MOMIJI-  
KUN!

DO YOU HAVE  
SOMETHING YOU  
WANT HONDA-SAN  
TO PRAISE YOU  
ABOUT, MOMIJI?

Happy  
New  
Year!



INSIDE,  
I WAS  
ACTUALLY  
REALLY  
AFRAID.

SO HE  
LET ME  
HAVE IT.

I  
DEFIED  
AKITO.



YOU  
KNOW?

BUT I  
PUSHED  
MYSELF A  
LITTLE.



YES.



...REACH  
KURENO-  
SAN.

TOHRI?

WHAT'VE YOU  
BEEN DOING  
THIS WHOLE  
TIME?

If you  
wanna  
ask me  
a favor,  
just  
ask.



Ack!

NO, UM,  
WELL...

LET'S  
GET GOING  
SOON, YOU  
TWO.



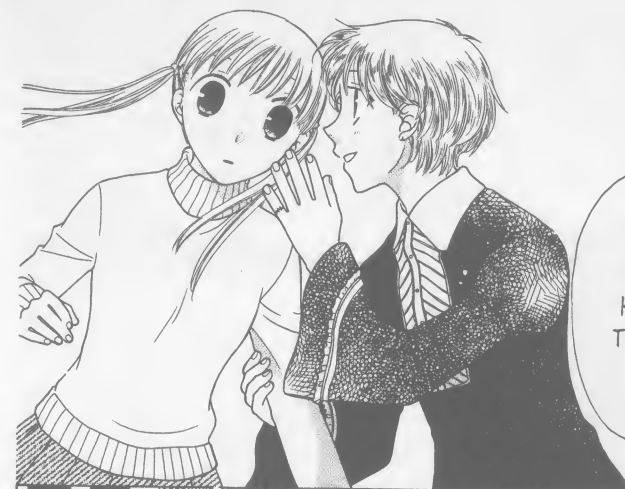
Y-YES!

LET'S PRAY  
THAT HE'LL  
WATCH IT.



PLEASE.

LET UO-  
CHAN'S  
FEELINGS...



I GAVE  
IT TO  
HIM.

I GAVE  
KURENO  
THE DVD.



TH-  
THANK...

TOHRI.


LET'S  
SAY A  
PRAYER,  
'KAY?



WHEN I  
GAVE IT  
TO HIM, MY  
HEART WAS  
POUNDING.

BUT  
STILL.

I'M GLAD  
I COULD  
MAKE SURE  
HE GOT IT.




"WHY DIDN'T YOU COME RIGHT AWAY WHEN THAT IDIOT YUKI SAID ALL THOSE NASTY THINGS TO ME?!"

"WHY ARE YOU LIKE THAT?!"

"WHY DON'T YOU EVER CHOOSE ME FIRST?!"

IT'S SO HYPOCRITICAL.




I THOUGHT THAT WAS WHY YOU CAME HERE TODAY.

WHAT ABOUT YOU? AREN'T YOU GOING TO SEE HIM?



BUT HE GOT MAD AND TURNED ME AWAY AT THE GATE.

I TRIED.

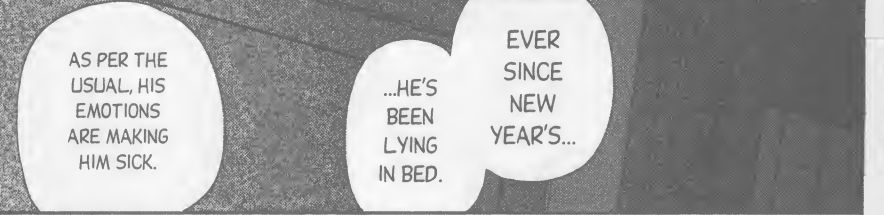


DIDN'T LIKE MY ATTITUDE, APPARENTLY.

"WHY?"



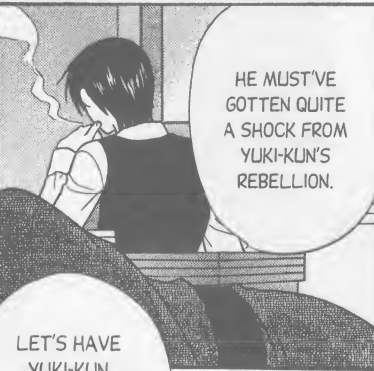
AND HER LOVE.



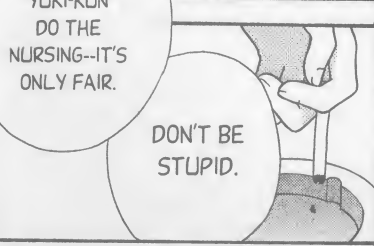
AS PER THE USUAL, HIS EMOTIONS ARE MAKING HIM SICK.

...HE'S BEEN LYING IN BED.

EVER SINCE NEW YEAR'S...




HE MUST'VE GOTTEN QUITE A SHOCK FROM YUKI-KUN'S REBELLION.



LET'S HAVE YUKI-KUN DO THE NURSING--IT'S ONLY FAIR.

DON'T BE STUPID.



BUT IT'S LINGERING A LITTLE LONGER THIS TIME.





YOU'RE  
DUCKING  
UNDER  
THIS ONE.

HE...

I MEAN,  
HE  
MIGHT  
BE...

....



I DON'T  
WANT YOU  
TELLING  
ME THAT  
I'M NOT  
FAIR.

SAD?

IS IT  
BECAUSE  
YOU'RE  
AFRAID?

Ha ha.

YOU'RE  
RIGHT. I'M...  
WAIT.

I SAID THIS TO  
SOMEONE BEFORE.  
WHO WAS THAT?  
AND DOES IT  
MATTER?

Whoever it was.

THAT'S  
NOT FAIR.

TO THE  
"BOND," I  
MEAN.

BECAUSE YOU  
CAN HATE IT  
BUT NOT LET  
GO OF YOUR  
ATTACHMENT  
TO IT?



HE'S  
THE  
ONE...

...WHO  
CHOSE  
KURENO.



...AMONG  
WE  
MEMBERS  
OF THE  
ZODIAC.

EVEN GOD  
CAN PICK  
FAVORITES...

IT'S NOT  
THAT HE  
CHOSE  
HIM.

THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
NOT RIGHT  
ABOUT HIM.

C'MON,  
HATORI.

WITH  
KURENO.

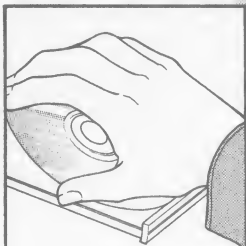
NONE OF  
YOU HAVE  
EVER  
FELT IT?



"AS LONG..."



"...AS YOU'RE ALIVE..."



"HEY."

"KURENO."



"... WISHES WILL KEEP BEING MADE."



HN.



I WONDER WHAT'S ON IT.

MAYBE I SHOULD WATCH IT.



"THAT'S A PRESENT FOR YOU."

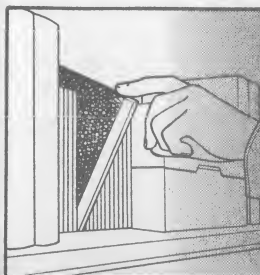


"FROM TOHRU."



...IS THAT WHILE YOU REALIZE ALL THAT, YOU STILL DON'T REGRET A THING.

THE WORST THING ABOUT YOU...

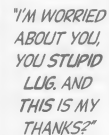


I'M POWERLESS AND WORTHLESS. A MAN OF SMALL CALIBER.



I'M THE WORST OF MEN.

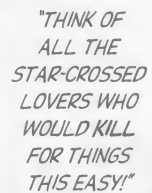




"I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU, YOU STUPID LUG. AND THIS IS MY THANKS?"



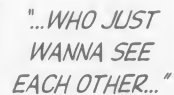
"GO BUY YOURSELF SOME COURTESY!"



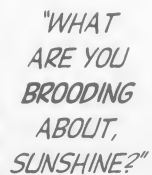
"THINK OF ALL THE STAR-CROSSED LOVERS WHO WOULD KILL FOR THINGS THIS EASY!"



"ALL THOSE STAR-CROSSED LOVERS..."



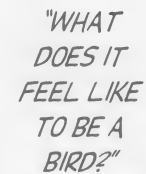
"...WHO JUST WANNA SEE EACH OTHER..."



"WHAT ARE YOU BROODING ABOUT, SUNSHINE?"



"WE THREW THIS GIANT THING FOR YOU."



"WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO BE A BIRD?"



"WHAT'S IT LIKE?"



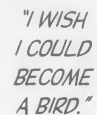
"IS IT EXCITING?"



"IS IT FUN?"



"TO BE ABLE TO FLY THROUGH THE SKY, COMPLETELY FREE..."



"I WISH I COULD BECOME A BIRD."



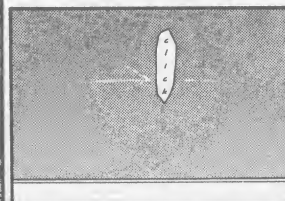
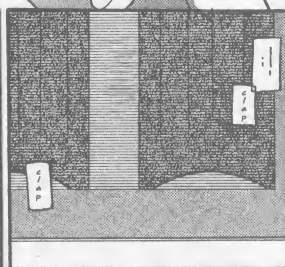
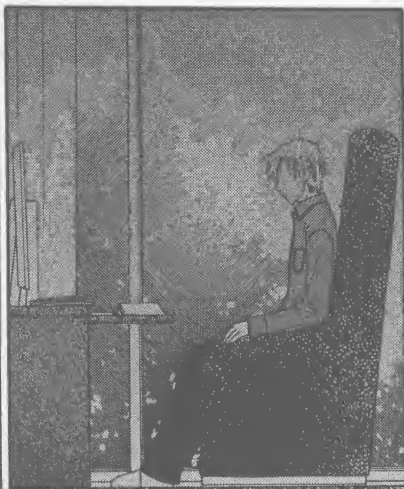
"YOU'RE LUCKY."



"YOU'RE LUCKY, KURENO."



**"DON'T  
ABANDON  
ME!"**



**"COME  
SEE ME,  
DAMMIT!"**



...HM?  
TOHRU-KUN'S  
STILL AT  
SCHOOL.

THIS IS  
UNUSUAL.

IT MIGHT  
EVEN BE  
A FIRST.

flutter



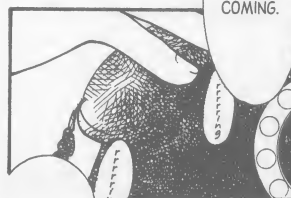
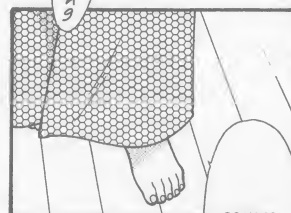
AND I THINK THE  
PROBABILITY OF  
ANYONE ASKING  
FOR TOHRU-  
KUN FIRST IS  
PRETTY LOW  
TO BEGIN WITH.

I DON'T  
SEE THE  
CONNECTION.

WHY ARE  
YOU ASKING  
FOR TOHRU-  
KUN AGAIN?

WHAT  
BUSINESS  
DO YOU  
HAVE WITH  
HER?

BUT I DIDN'T  
EXPECT THIS  
AT ALL.



COMING,  
COMING.

YES?

HEL...?





I'M SORRY TO ASK RIGHT WHEN YOU WALK IN THE DOOR, BUT WOULD YOU BUY SOME ENVELOPES FOR ME?

TWO A-4S.

I'D BE HAPPY TO!

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?!

THAT'LL DO. OH, AND YOU CAN CHANGE BEFORE YOU GO.



WELCOME BACK.

Yes!

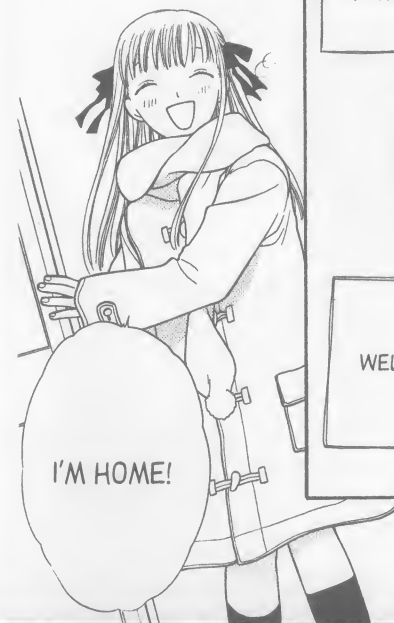
YUKI-KUN HAS A STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING AND KYO-KUN IS AT SHISHOU-SAN'S.

ARE YOU BY YOURSELF?

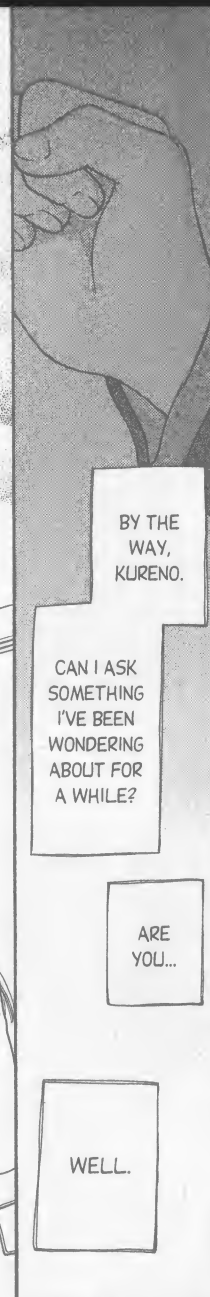


HAVE YOU...

slide



I'M HOME!



BY THE WAY, KURENO.

CAN I ASK SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT FOR A WHILE?

ARE YOU...

WELL.



THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING ...

...I NEED TO TALK ABOUT WITH YOU, TOO, SHIGURE-NIISAN.



IT'S ABOUT TIME.



TAKE CARE.



I'M OKAY.

I'M OFF!

"WELL."

"HAVE  
YOU..."

OH.

SPAR-  
ROWS!

AND  
MAYBE...

THAT'S  
RIGHT!

I'LL BUY  
SOME TRASH  
BAGS WHILE  
I'M AT IT.

YOU'RE  
SO CUTE!

I'M SORRY--  
I DON'T HAVE  
ANYTHING TO  
FEED YOU.

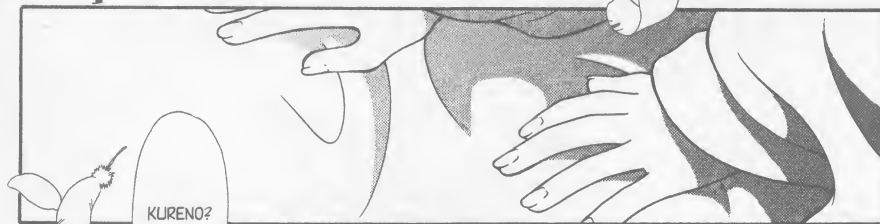
Wow

YOU  
MUST BE  
USED TO  
PEOPLE!

ACK!



## Chapter 97





I  
THOUGHT...

BUT...

...YOU WERE  
POSSESSED  
BY THE  
SPIRIT OF  
THE BIRD.

AND WHEN  
YOU'RE  
POSSESSED  
BY A SPIRIT,  
THAT  
ANIMAL...

"THEY  
COME ON  
THEIR  
OWN, SO IT  
CAN'T BE  
HELPED."

THEY  
FLEW  
AWAY.

WHEN  
YOU  
ARRIVED.

KURENO...

...SAN.

"THEY JUST  
COME. FOR THE  
DOG, IT'S DOGS;  
FOR THE RAT,  
IT'S RATS."

"A LONG-TIME AGO  
WHEN I WAS IN  
THE MOUNTAINS  
WITH KAGURA, WE  
WERE SURROUNDED  
BY BOARS."

KURENO-  
SAN.

THE  
BIRDS.

HUH?





RIGHT.

BUT I'M  
NOT LIKE  
THAT  
ANYMORE.

I WON'T  
TRANSFORM.

MY  
CURSE...

...HAS  
ALREADY...



"WE  
TRANSFORM."



"WHEN  
HUGGED..."



"BY THE  
OPPOSITE  
GENDER, WE  
TRANSFORM."



I CAN'T  
FLY  
ANYMORE.

"YOU'RE  
LUCKY,  
KURENO."

...BEEN  
BROKEN.

IT  
HAPPENED  
YEARS AGO.

I WAS A  
LITTLE  
YOUNGER  
THAN YOU  
ARE NOW.

I...

"I CAN'T  
THINK  
OF HIM  
AS ONE  
OF US."

NOW  
...

"YOU'RE  
LUCKY."

"HE HARDLY  
EVEN  
ASSOCIATES  
WITH THE  
OTHER  
MEMBERS OF  
THE ZODIAC."

...I'M NO  
LONGER  
ONE OF  
THE  
ZODIAC.





HOW DID THE CURSE...?

HOW?

IT HAPPENED SO SUD-DENLY.

I REALLY DON'T.

I DON'T KNOW.

WHY?!

...THE CURSE WAS BROKEN.

WITHOUT ANY WARNING...



BUT HE JUST...

WE TRIED TO STOP HIM, AT LEAST UNTIL YOU HAD WOKEN UP, AKITO-SAN.

I'M SORRY.

HE SAID HE HAD SOME BUSINESS HE COULDN'T GET AWAY FROM!

NO--IT SEEMS HE'S TURNED OFF HIS CELL PHONE.

CAN YOU CONTACT HIM?

NEVER!

HMPH.

HE NEVER LEFT WITHOUT MY PERMISSION BEFORE.

FIND HIM.

RIGHT AWAY!

At first, maybe people didn't really know the word "waves," because I got asked what it means a lot.

Hana-chan.



• With her father, mother, grandmother, and younger brother (Megumi), Hana-chan has a family of five.

• I think I've mentioned everything about Hana-chan in the story, so there's not really anything to add.

• She likes shojo manga and shojo novels more (?) than you'd expect.

• After the sleepover, she made sure to buy "Summer-Colored Sigh" and read it again.

• Her admiration for Shishou is strong.

• But I wonder if my thinking they'd make a good couple is just my blind love for them as their creator (laugh).



KURENO-SAN.

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ZODIAC?

THEY STILL THINK YOU'RE THE BIRD.

HUH?

BUT...

EVEN NOW.

A-AND YOU'RE STILL BY AKITO-SAN'S SIDE.

AREN'T YOU?



...HAVEN'T BEEN RELEASED FROM?

KURENO-SAN...

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU STILL...



AND THERE WAS NOTHING TO DRIVE ME AWAY.

LIKE THERE WAS NO ONE INSIDE ME BUT "ME."

IT FELT LIKE MY FIELD OF VISION HAD ABRUPTLY BEEN OPENED.



IT FELT LIKE...

...I'D FINALLY BECOME HUMAN.

I REALIZED SOMETHING.

THE SKY WAS SO BLUE THAT DAY.

FINALLY.

I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO FLY IN THAT SKY AGAIN. IT MADE ME BOTH SAD...

AND I WAS HAPPY.

...AND ELATED.



...I'LL  
CONTINUE  
TO STAY  
BY AKITO'S  
SIDE.

I WON'T  
BE SEEING  
ARISA.

BECAUSE  
FROM  
NOW ON...



"I HAVE...  
NO INTENTION..."



"...OF  
SEEING  
HER."

TWICE.



THEY WERE  
SUCH TINY,  
TRIVIAL  
ENCOUNTERS.

...THAT I  
MET ARISA  
AND TALKED  
WITH HER.

IT WAS  
ONLY  
TWICE...



ABOUT  
YOUR  
PRESENT.

IT'S  
WASTED  
ON ME.



I CAME  
HERE TO  
TELL YOU  
THAT.

I'M JUST...  
SORRY.



I'M  
SORRY.





"COME  
SEE ME!"

"I DIDN'T  
THINK IT  
WAS A  
WASTE."

"THEN  
SMILE."

"DAM-  
MIT!"

"BECAUSE  
I WANTED  
TO SEE  
YOU."

"MORE  
HAPPILY."



AND THOSE  
WILL  
FADE INTO  
NOTHING  
SOMEDAY.

IF IT ENDS  
NOW,  
WITHOUT  
MY SEEING  
HER...

...THEY'LL  
BECOME  
A TRIVIAL  
MEMORY.




THAT'S  
ALL  
THERE IS  
TO IT.

ALL  
RIGHT?

YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO  
WORRY  
ABOUT IT  
ANYMORE.






I COULD  
HAVE HELD  
HER AS  
MUCH AS I  
WANTED.

IT'S  
TRUE.

I'M NOT  
POSSESSED  
BY A SPIRIT  
ANYMORE.

IN  
REALITY  
...



I CAN  
LOVE  
ANYONE.

ME, AND  
NO ONE  
ELSE.

I CAN GO  
ANYWHERE.

I WAS  
RELEASED  
SO EASILY  
FROM THE  
CURSE THAT  
EVERYONE  
ELSE STILL  
SUFFERS  
FROM.

I'M  
FREE.



BUT...

THAT'S  
WHY I  
HAVE  
TO...

BUT  
THAT'S  
EXACTLY  
WHY.



I  
WANT  
TO  
SEE  
HER.


I  
WANT  
TO,  
BUT...

I  
JUST...



IT WAS  
ONLY  
TWICE.

BUT IT  
WAS  
STILL  
THE  
FIRST  
TIME...



...AFTER  
BECOMING  
HUMAN...

...THAT I,  
MYSELF...

...THOUGHT  
I CARED  
FOR  
SOMEONE.



I WANT  
TO SEE  
HER.

AKITO?!

GET  
AWAY  
FROM  
US!

DON'T LET  
ANYONE COME  
UNTIL I SAY  
SO. DO YOU  
HEAR ME?!

IF ANYONE  
COMES, I'LL  
KILL THEM!

I'LL KILL  
THEM!

AKI...

...I HAVE  
TO BE BY  
AKITO'S  
SIDE.

AKITO,  
CALM  
DOWN.

WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?!

WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER,  
AKITO-SA--

AKITO.

WHY ARE YOU  
LOOKING AT ME  
WITH DISTANT  
EYES?!

...WHAT?

NO.

THOSE  
EYES.

STOP  
IT!

WHY ARE  
YOUR  
EYES SO...  
DISTANT?

AKITO?

YOU'VE  
BEEN  
LOOKING  
AT ME  
LIKE THAT.

I  
DON'T  
LIKE  
IT.

WHY  
DID IT  
BREAK?!

JUST  
...

I  
HONESTLY  
DON'T  
KNOW.

HAP-  
PENED?

I  
MEAN...

I  
DON'T--

WHY?!

IT'S OUR  
BOND...!

I DON'T  
KNOW,  
EITHER!

I  
DIDN'T--

IT  
JUST...  
HAP-  
PENED.





DON'T  
ABANDON  
ME!

KURENO!



DON'T  
GO...!

PLEASE!

...!

.....

PLEASE...

I'M  
BEGGING  
YOU.



STAY WITH  
ME! YOU  
HAVE TO!

DON'T GO!  
DON'T  
LEAVE  
ME!

DON'T GO  
ANYWHERE!

DON'T EVER  
LEAVE  
MY SIDE!

DON'T  
LEAVE ME  
BEHIND!

DON'T...

DON'T...

DON'T...!





"I SWEAR  
IT."

"I'LL  
ALWAYS  
BE BESIDE  
YOU,  
AKITO."

"I  
SWEAR  
TO YOU."

"I'LL  
ALWAYS  
BE HERE."

I VOWED  
TO STAY  
BY HIS  
SIDE.



I WANTED  
TO STOP  
AKITO'S  
TEARS.

WHATEVER  
IT TOOK.



I WAS WILLING,  
IF THAT WAS  
WHAT IT TOOK  
TO STOP THAT  
CHILD'S TEARS.

...AND  
PRETEND I  
WAS STILL  
POSSESSED  
BY THE BIRD.

I WAS  
WILLING TO  
LIE TO THE  
OTHERS...



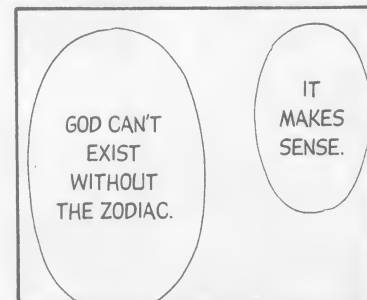
THAT WAS  
ALL I COULD  
THINK OF.

HONESTLY.



...HIS BOND  
WITH US IS  
EVERYTHING.

FOR  
AKITO...



GOD CAN'T  
EXIST  
WITHOUT  
THE ZODIAC.

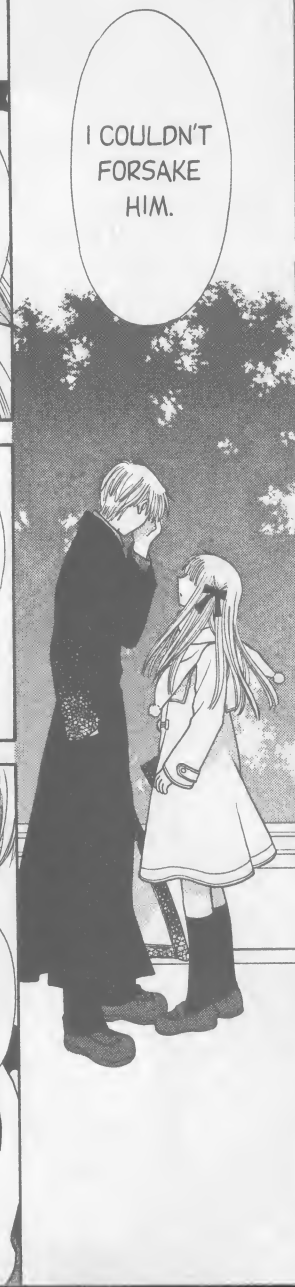
IT  
MAKES  
SENSE.



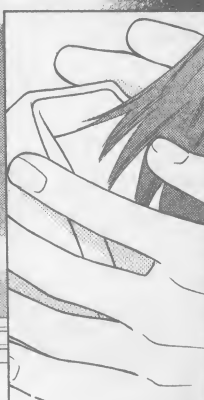
ON THE  
DAY MY  
CURSE  
WAS  
BROKEN.

I  
SWORE.

SO  
THEN...



I COULDN'T  
FORSAKE  
HIM.



I  
COULDN'T  
DO IT.



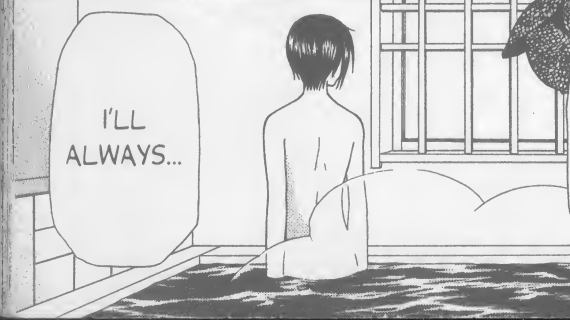
"MAYBE  
IT'S ONLY  
PITY."

"MAYBE IT'S  
ONLY OUT OF  
PITY THAT I  
HOLD HIM."

BUT I  
CAN'T  
JUST  
LEAVE  
HIM.



I-I SWORE  
I'D STAY  
BY HIS  
SIDE.



I'LL  
ALWAYS...

UNTIL THE  
DAY HE NO  
LONGER  
NEEDS ME.



IT'S TRUE  
THAT MY  
CURSE  
WAS  
BROKEN.

AND THE  
BOND THAT  
I USED TO  
FEEL...

...IT IS  
GONE  
NOW.  
BUT...



"DON'T YOU  
THINK YOU  
SHOULD'VE  
LEFT HIM?"

"FOR  
AKITO-  
SAN'S  
SAKE."

"AND  
NOT  
JUST  
THEN."



"FOR  
HIS  
SAKE  
NOW."



I COULDN'T  
DO IT.

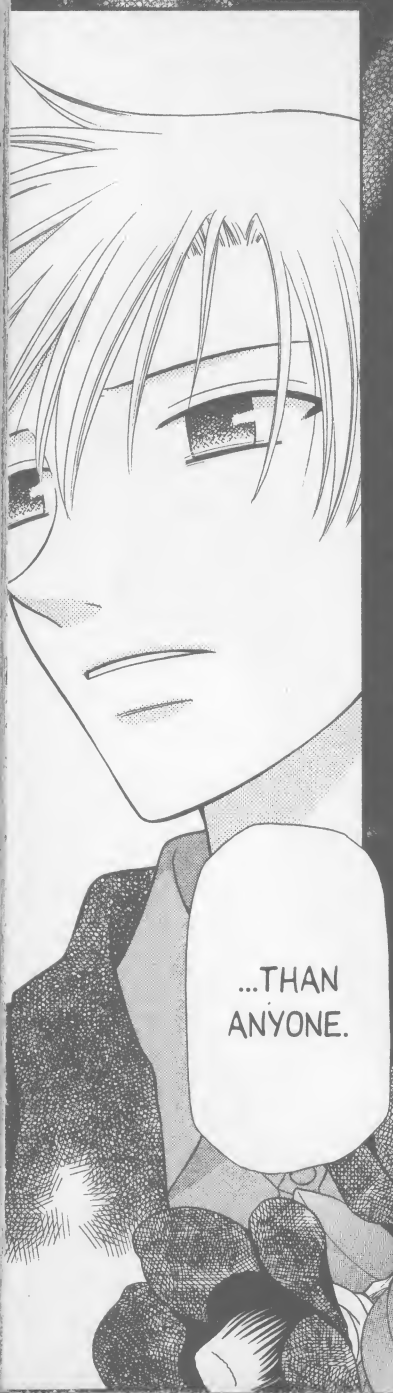


I  
COULDN'T  
LEAVE  
HIM!



"YOU FELT  
SORRY FOR  
HIM?"

"COME  
ON.  
YOU'RE  
NOT  
BOLIND  
ANY  
MORE  
RIGHT?"



...THAN ANYONE.



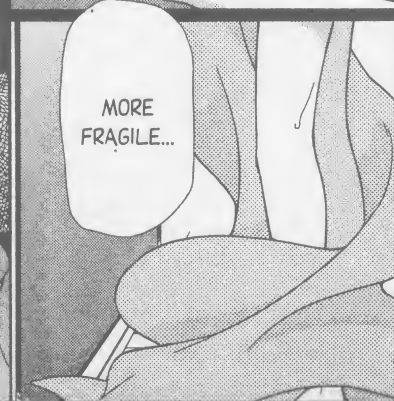
FOR THAT CHILD.

TIMID...



...AND WEAK.

WEAKER THAN ANYONE.



MORE FRAGILE...



CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?



AKITO CLUNG TO ME AND CRIED SO HARD I THOUGHT HE'D BREAK IN TWO.

AND SO...

...FOR THE SAKE OF THAT GIRL...

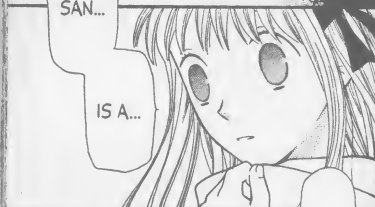
I SWORE I'D KEEP ON LIVING.



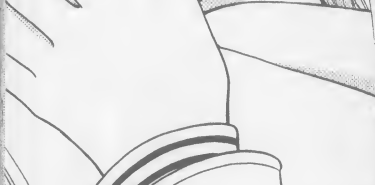
# Chapter 98



AKITO-  
SAN...



IS A...



GIRL...?



FOR  
THAT  
SAD  
...

...LITTLE  
GIRL.





IS  
IT...

IS THAT  
REALLY  
TRUE?

IT C-  
CAN'T BE.

IS  
THAT...



BUT...

BUT  
AKITO-  
SAN!

AKITO-SAN  
WAS...  
BEHAVING  
LIKE A BOY.

IT'S  
TRUE.

AND NONE OF  
THE OTHERS  
SEEMED TO  
TREAT AKITO-  
SAN LIKE A  
WOMAN.

NOT  
EVEN A  
LITTLE.

THERE  
ARE MANY  
SECRETS IN  
THE SOHMA  
FAMILY...

...AND  
THAT ONE  
IS THE  
BIGGEST.



A  
GIRL!



HATORI!

NO!

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?!

GET  
AWAY!



...SHE WAS  
RAISED AS  
A MAN.

SINCE THE  
DAY AKITO  
WAS BORN...

TO  
THINK.  
  
SHE'S A  
GIRL.

THAT  
PERSON...

...DECIDED  
ON IT.

DO YOU  
REMEMBER?

THERE WAS  
A TIME  
YOU WERE  
ALMOST  
FOUND AT  
THE MAIN  
HOUSE.

WHO  
DECIDED?

HUH?



REN  
SOHMA.

SHE'S  
USUALLY  
IN A BACK  
ROOM.

BUT TO  
AKITO, SHE'S  
STILL THE  
BIGGEST  
PART OF  
HIS LIFE.

SHE'S A  
LITTLE  
ILL, BOTH  
PHYSICALLY  
AND  
MENTALLY.

THAT  
PERSON.

WHY ARE  
YOU EVEN  
WANDERING  
AROUND  
HERE?

GO BACK  
TO YOUR  
OWN  
ROOM!  
NOW!

SHE WAS  
ONLY  
SAYING  
HELLO.

THAT'S  
RIGHT.

AKITO,  
IT'S NOT  
LIKE  
THAT.

AKITO...

YOU CAN'T  
JUST GET  
NEAR THEM  
WHENEVER  
YOU WANT!

HOW  
MANY  
TIMES DO  
I HAVE  
TO TELL  
YOU?!


...YOU  
START  
COMING ON  
TO HIM!

THE  
MINUTE  
YOU SEE  
A MAN  
FROM THE  
ZODIAC...

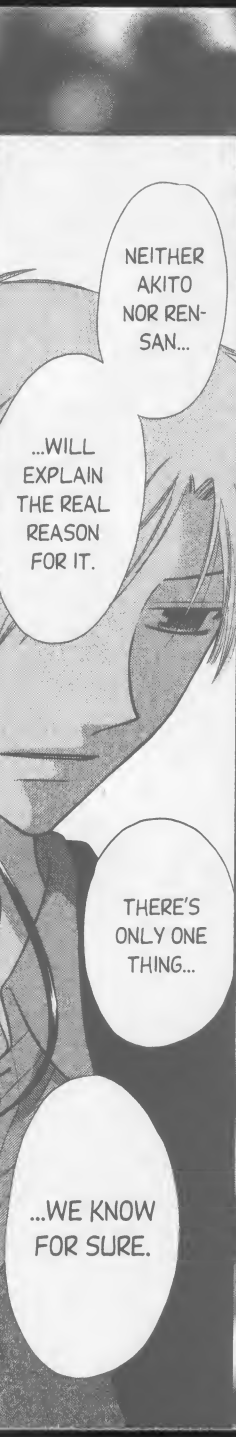
IS  
THAT SO  
WRONG?

I WAS  
ONLY  
SAYING  
HELLO TO  
HATORI.






THOSE TWO  
TRULY HATE  
EACH OTHER.



NEITHER  
AKITO  
NOR REN-  
SAN...

...WILL  
EXPLAIN  
THE REAL  
REASON  
FOR IT.



IT WAS  
HIS OWN  
MOTHER'S  
DECISION.

THERE'S  
ONLY ONE  
THING...

SHE  
DECIDED  
TO RAISE  
AKITO AS  
A MAN.

...WE KNOW  
FOR SURE.



AKITO'S...

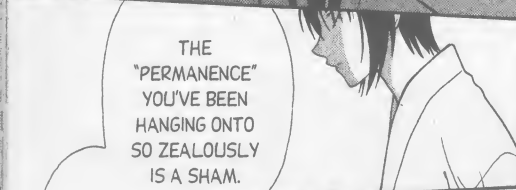
...MOTHER.





YOU'RE  
STILL  
SPOUTING  
THAT  
GARBAGE?

YOU  
STUPID  
CHILD.



THE  
"PERMANENCE"  
YOU'VE BEEN  
HANGING ONTO  
SO ZEALOUSLY  
IS A SHAM.

THAT  
"PERMA-  
NENCE"...

...IS A  
DELUSION.



I FEEL SORRY  
FOR ALL THE  
MEMBERS OF  
THE ZODIAC  
BEING MADE  
TO KEEP YOU  
COMPANY.



A LOVE  
CONNECTED  
BY SUCH  
A BOND...

HOW MANY  
TIMES DO  
I HAVE TO  
TELL YOU?

...ISN'T  
REAL.



AND  
HATORI...  
YOU  
POOR  
THING.



HATORI'S  
NOT A POOR  
THING!



GOOD-  
NESS.

AKITO-SAN.

EVERYONE IN  
THE ZODIAC  
WILL STOP  
ACTING SO  
NICE TO YOU.


DO YOU  
ALWAYS  
HAVE SUCH  
A DIRTY  
MOUTH?



AND  
THEY'RE  
NOT  
ACTING  
NICE!

WE'RE IN  
A WORLD  
SOMEONE LIKE  
YOU COULD  
NEVER BE A  
PART OF!

WE'RE  
CONNECTED  
THROUGH  
A BOND!




NO ONE HAS  
THE RIGHT  
TO GET RID  
OF THEM!

MY  
"PERMA-  
NENCE"!

NO ONE,  
NOT EVEN YOU,  
CAN DEFINE  
WHAT'S REAL,  
WHAT'S A LIE,  
WHAT'S PRETENSE,  
WHAT'S WORSHIP!


MY "BOND"  
WITH  
EVERYONE!

THE REAL  
THING?




THE REAL  
THING DOES  
EXIST, AND  
I HAVE IT!

I HAVE  
IT WITH  
AKIRA-SAN!



THAT IS  
REAL....!



THE "BOND"  
BETWEEN  
AKIRA-SAN  
AND ME.



AKITO!

TELL ME  
WHAT IS  
REAL!


THEN  
TELL  
ME!

THE LOVE  
OF A  
PARENT?!  
EVEN  
THAT ISN'T  
PERFECT!

EVEN JUST  
WITHIN THE  
SOHMA, THERE  
ARE TONS OF  
PARENTS WHO  
LEAVE THEIR  
OWN KIDS!

SEE?

JUST  
LIKE YOU  
DID!



"MY CHILD,  
BORN TO BE  
LOVED."

"...AKITO."

"WE'VE  
ALL BEEN  
WAITING..."

"...FOR  
YOU,  
AKITO."

AND THEN I  
CAN GO TO  
AKIRA-SAN!

I  
CERTAINLY  
DON'T NEED  
SOMEONE  
LIKE YOU!

I'LL  
KILL  
YOU!

I'LL  
KILL  
YOU!

FINE,  
KILL  
ME!

IF I DIE, MY  
SOUL WILL  
RISE TO  
HEAVEN.





...AND  
AYAME-  
NIISAN  
DID, TOO.

HATORI-  
NIISAN...

SHIGURE-  
NIISAN...

...I WOKE  
UP  
CRYING.

THE  
MORNING OF  
THE DAY  
REN-SAN  
CONCEIVED  
AKITO...



APPARENTLY  
RITSU WAS  
TOO YOUNG  
AND DIDN'T  
REALLY  
UNDERSTAND.

THE ONLY  
MEMBERS OF  
THE ZODIAC  
WHO KNOW  
THAT AKITO IS  
A WOMAN ARE  
THOSE THREE  
AND MYSELF.



THE GOD WE  
HADN'T SEEN  
YET, AKITO,  
APPEARED  
AND TOLD US  
SOMETHING.

IN THE  
DREAM...

ALL FOUR  
OF US HAD  
THE SAME  
DREAM.



"WE'LL  
MEET  
SOON."



AND  
THAT IT  
CAN'T BE  
REAL.

SHE THINKS  
SUCH A  
BOND IS  
UNNATURAL...



THAT'S  
WHY SHE'S  
CONSTANTLY  
BUTTING HEADS  
WITH AKITO,  
WHO CLINGS TO  
THAT BOND.



THAT  
DAY...



REN-  
SAN...

SHE DOESN'T  
BELIEVE IN  
THE "BOND"  
BETWEEN  
AKITO AND  
THE ZODIAC.

SHE THINKS  
IT'S A  
MISTAKE.



I CAN LOOK  
BACK ON IT  
DIFFERENTLY.

AND I DO  
THINK THE  
"BOND" WAS  
UNNATURAL.

JUST LIKE  
REN-SAN  
SAYS.



AND  
YET...



...THERE  
WAS ONE  
MORE THING  
I COULD  
SEE.

"...BUT GOD  
AND THE  
ZODIAC  
SPIRITS MADE  
A PROMISE."

"TO BE  
TOGETHER...  
FOR  
ETERNITY."

"EVEN IF  
THEY WERE  
REBORN  
SEVERAL  
TIMES..."

NOW  
THAT THE  
CURSE IS  
BROKEN...



ANOTHER SELF  
THAT LIVED  
INSIDE ME--  
THE BLOOD OF  
THE SPIRIT.

EVEN IF A NEW  
SENSE OF SELF  
WAS BORN,  
THE SPIRIT'S  
BLOOD WOULD  
CONDEMN IT.

"DON'T  
BETRAY  
AKITO."



WE KEPT  
CRYING  
AROUND  
HER.

WE ALL WENT  
STRAIGHT TO  
REN-SAN.

SHE DIDN'T  
EVEN KNOW  
SHE WAS  
PREGNANT  
YET.

"WE'VE  
BEEN  
WAITING."

"WE'VE BEEN  
WAITING."  
WE SAID.

I FELT LIKE  
A ME WHO  
WASN'T  
ME WAS  
SHOUTING.

...I WAS  
FILLING UP WITH  
FEELINGS THAT  
BELONGED TO A  
ME I DIDN'T KNOW.

FROM  
DEEP DOWN.  
  
DEEP  
INSIDE MY  
HEART...

...WAS THE  
VOICE OF  
THE SPIRIT.

THAT...



I  
WONDER.

MADAM.

COME,  
LET'S GO  
BACK.

HEH  
HEH!

CAN YOU  
REALLY WIN  
LIKE THAT?

WH--



THEY'RE  
SO  
CRUEL.

WHY  
DOES  
SHE...

WHY  
DOES SHE  
ALWAYS...

...SAY SUCH  
AWFUL  
THINGS?

THEY'RE  
SO  
CRUEL!

NNGH!



A GIRL.

CRYING.



TAKE HER  
TO HER  
ROOM.

IT'S ALL  
RIGHT...

AKITO...

IT'S ALL  
RIGHT.

YES.

RIGHT  
AWAY!

AKITO-  
SAN...

MADAM?

y-  
YOU'RE  
HERE?

CALM  
DOWN.



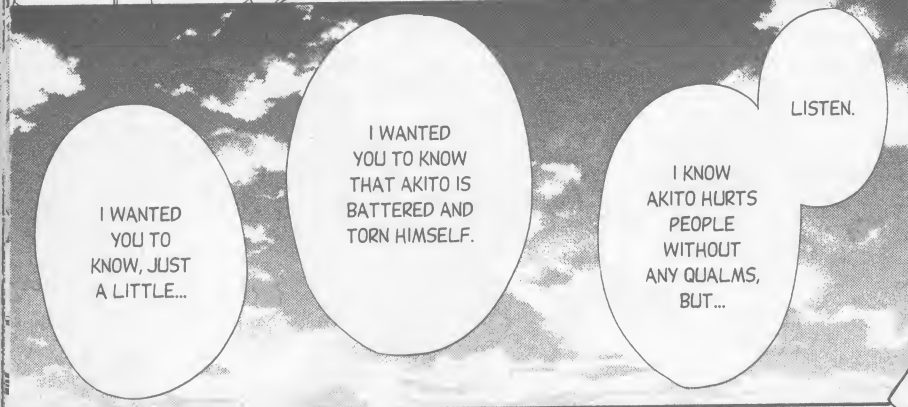


...I'M  
SORRY.

I PROBABLY  
TOLD YOU TOO  
MUCH AND  
CONFUSED  
YOU.

I CAN'T  
MEET WITH  
ARISA.

NOT WHEN  
THERE'S  
ANOTHER GIRL  
I HAVE TO  
STAY BESIDE.



I WANTED  
YOU TO  
KNOW, JUST  
A LITTLE...

I WANTED  
YOU TO KNOW  
THAT AKITO IS  
BATTERED AND  
TORN HIMSELF.

LISTEN.

I KNOW  
AKITO HURTS  
PEOPLE  
WITHOUT  
ANY QUALMS,  
BUT...



MORE.

...WHY  
I CAN'T  
LEAVE  
HIM.



A  
CRYING  
GIRL.

A  
CRYING  
AKITO.

"HATORI."

"HATORI."

"CARRY  
ME."

I COULD  
NEVER  
LEAVE...

AND  
THANK  
YOU.

I  
CAN'T...

I'M THE  
ONE WHO  
DECIDED TO  
DO THIS.

FOR  
EVERYTHING.

...MOVE  
ANYMORE.

...I'M  
SORRY.

BUT THE  
WORDS WON'T  
COME.

I SHOULD  
HAVE MORE  
TO SAY.

I SHOULD  
HAVE MORE...

...TO  
SAY.

THEY  
WON'T.

STILL.

THIS  
IS THE  
PATH I'VE  
CHOSEN.

I'VE  
CHOSEN  
IT.

I CHOSE  
IT ON  
MY OWN.

...IS HURT  
PEOPLE.

I'M  
SORRY.

ALL I  
EVER DO...



I WON'T  
MOVE  
ANYMORE.

LUO-  
CHAN!

KURENO-  
SAN.



I  
WONT.





ALL THIS  
SADNESS...

...IS  
CONNECTED  
LIKE A  
SPIRAL.



I  
KNOW.

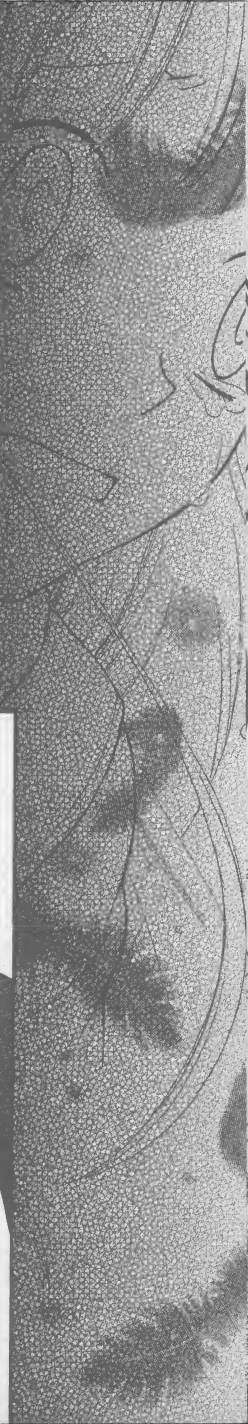
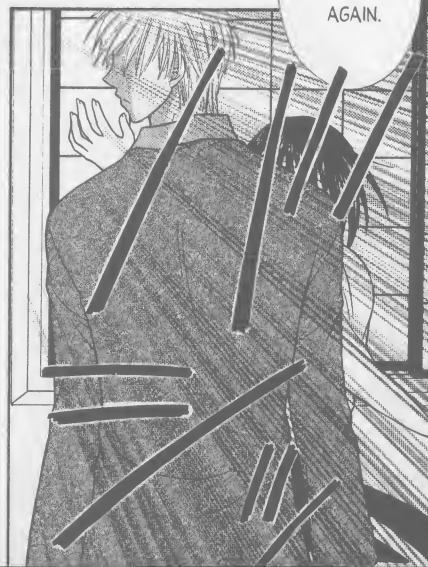
I JUST  
COULDN'T  
GET MYSELF  
TO FEEL LIKE  
WORKING  
TODAY.

I WANTED  
TO GET  
SOME AIR  
"OUTSIDE."



I'M  
SORRY.

IT WON'T  
HAPPEN  
AGAIN.





## Chapter 99



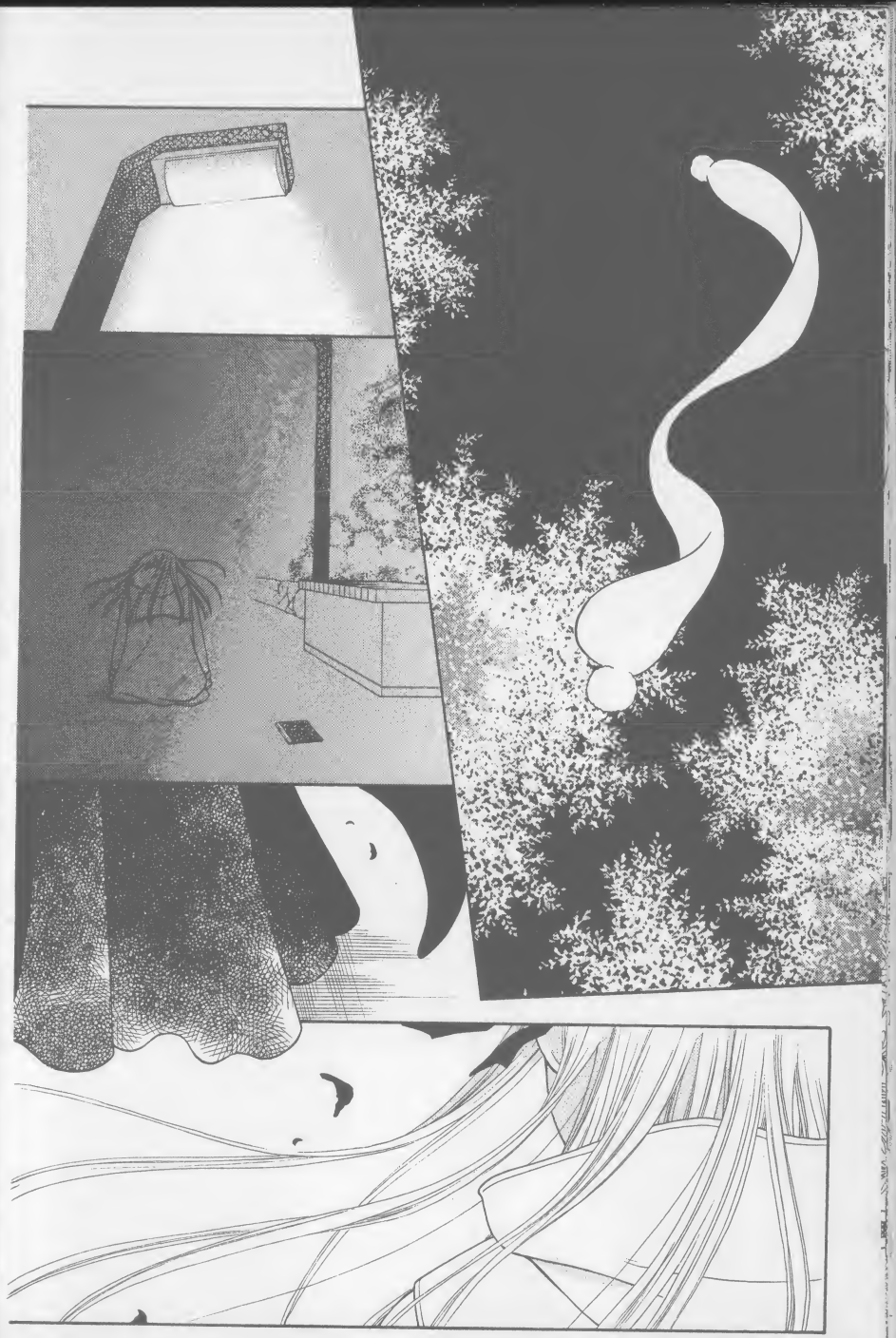
AND I  
CAN'T  
MOVE.



DA DA-DA-  
DAAAAH.

YOU  
CALLED...

...SO I  
CAME  
RUNNING.





Regarding this girl, letters usually tell me "I like her, but I wouldn't want her as a friend."

Kimi.



• With her father and mother, Kimi is in a family of three.

• Her father is elite, so she grew up in a fairly affluent home.

• When creating Kimi, my top priority was to make a girl who had absolutely no connection with "the Sohma family or emotional pain."

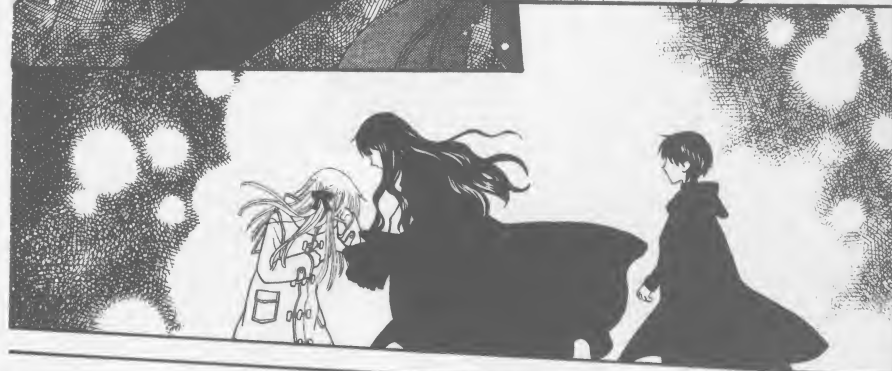
• But I get the feeling that she's uselessly lively.

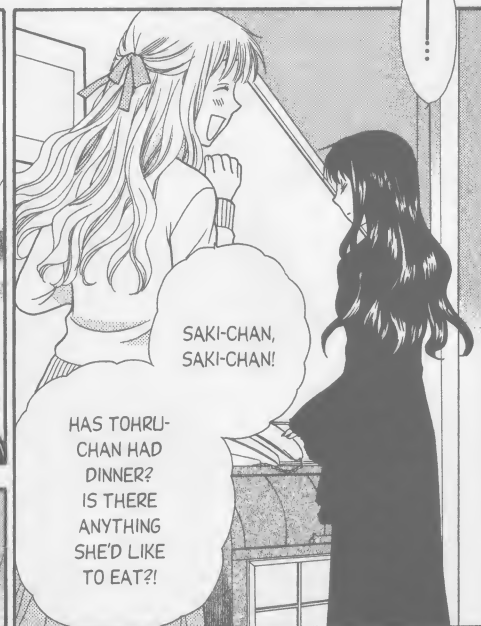
• And my editor told me, "You like drawing girls like this, don't you?"

• In Chapter 66, when Kakeru said, "But really, she's just--" I got a letter asking if the end to that sentence was "an okama." That's a reader with a good memory (laugh).

Why an okama? Isn't an okama a drag queen?

← To be continued







UM...  
THANK  
YOU.

BE  
CAREFUL,  
IT'S HOT.

Y-  
YES.



HERE.

THE TEA  
IS READY.

OH.



ALTHOUGH  
IT WAS A  
VOICE ONLY  
I COULD  
HEAR...

YOU WERE  
CRYING.

IT WAS  
PRACTICALLY  
A SCREAM.



BECAUSE  
YOU WERE  
CRYING.

HANA-CHAN...  
WHY WERE  
YOU THERE?

U  
M  
.....

U  
M  
.....



I'LL BE  
SURE TO.



OH!

SHE SAYS  
SHE'S NOT  
HUNGRY.  
IT'S MORE  
IMPORTANT  
TO MAKE  
THE TEA.

YOU'RE  
RIGHT. OH,  
DEAR. TEA!

MEGUMI...

WHEN  
SHE GETS  
HERE...TAKE  
CARE OF  
THINGS.



"ARISA..."

"I WON'T  
BE SEEING  
ARISA."

"...BEEN  
BROKEN."

"FOR THE  
SAKE OF  
THAT GIRL..."

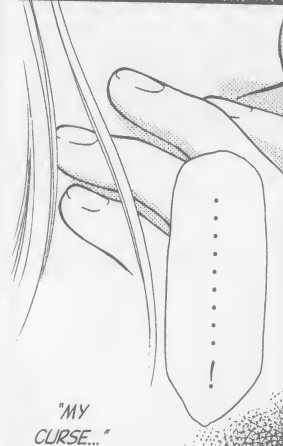
"AKITO'S  
MOTHER."

"ARISA..."



...I  
PRESUME.

SOMETHING  
UPSETTING  
HAPPENED.



"MY  
CURSE..."

"...HAS  
ALREADY..."

CON-  
FUSED.

ABOUT...

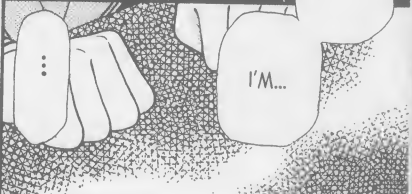
ABOUT A  
LOT OF  
THINGS.



I...



HANA-  
CHAN.



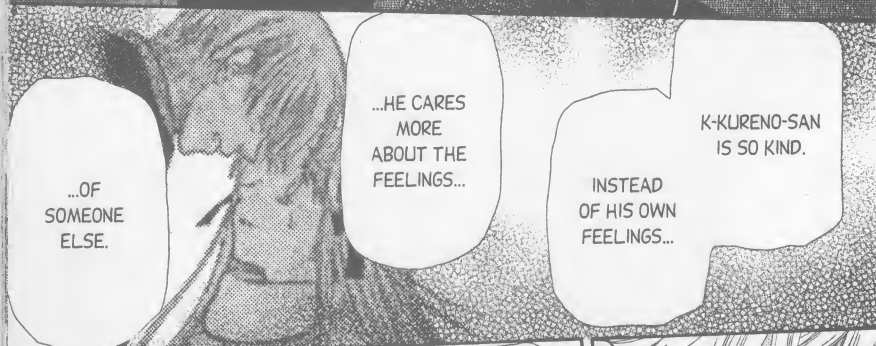
I'M...



...THERE'S  
SOMEONE  
ELSE...

BE-  
CAUSE...

HE HAS  
TO BE  
WITH.



...OF  
SOMEONE  
ELSE.

...HE CARES  
MORE  
ABOUT THE  
FEELINGS...

K-KURENO-SAN  
IS SO KIND.

INSTEAD  
OF HIS OWN  
FEELINGS...



...DO  
ANYTHING...!

ALL I'VE  
DONE IS  
CAUSE  
TROUBLE.

I-I  
COULDN'T  
SAY  
ANYTHING.

I  
COULDN'T.

BUT I  
COULDN'T...

I  
COULDN'T...



KURENO-  
SAN...

KURENO-SAN  
IS A...SOHMA.

KURENO...



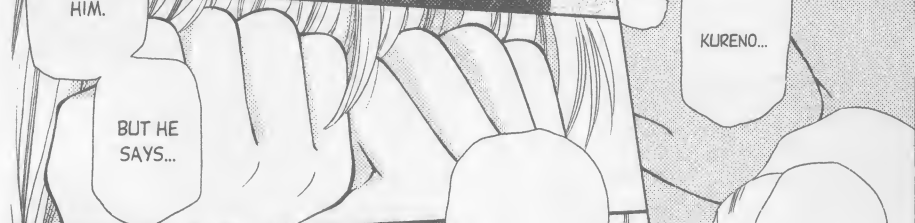
...TO  
MEET WITH  
UO-CHAN...

I  
JUST...

KU...

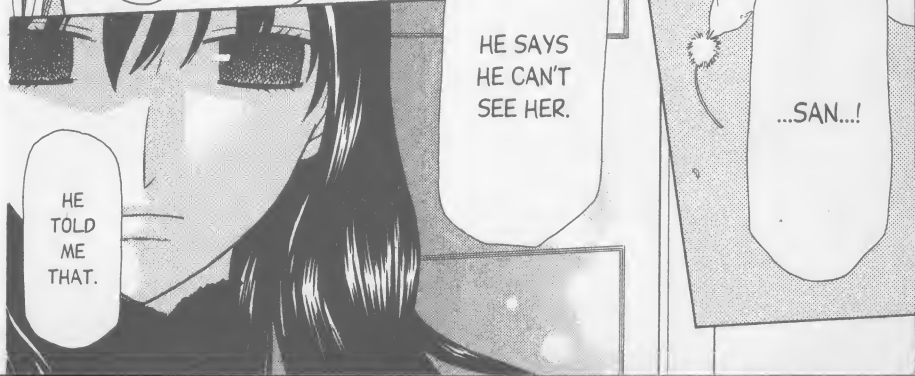
I  
WANTED  
HIM...

AND I  
A-ASKED  
HIM.



BUT HE  
SAYS...

KURENO...



HE SAYS  
HE CAN'T  
SEE HER.

...SAN...!

HE  
TOLD  
ME  
THAT.



IN SO  
DOING...

YOU ACCEPT  
THE FEELINGS  
OF OTHERS.



AND  
CARRY  
THEM.

AND  
CARRY  
THEM.

SOME-  
DAY...

...YOU  
CARRY  
THEM.



AND VERY  
CAREFULLY...



H.M.

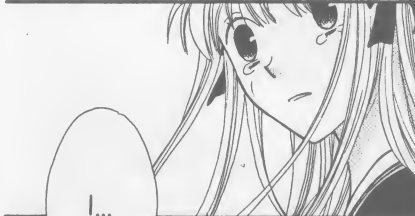
LIU-CHAN.

HE CARES  
MORE  
ABOUT THE  
FEELINGS  
OF OTHERS,  
DOES HE?



THEN THAT  
MAKES  
HIM JUST  
LIKE YOU,  
TOHRU-KUN.

KURENO-  
SAN.



I...



I DO WORRY  
ABOUT YOU.



I  
COULDN'T  
...

...BE  
OF ANY  
HELP...!





"HA  
HA!"

YES.

AND IF  
YOU'RE  
CRUSHED...

I  
WORRY.

I WORRY  
THAT  
YOUR  
SMILING  
FACE...

...WILL  
DISAPPEAR  
AS WELL.

...WERE TO  
HAPPEN...

TRULY.  
IF  
SUCH A  
THING...



"KYO-KUN,  
LOOK!"

"I BOUGHT A  
NEW SCARF!  
AND LOOK--  
IT HAS POM-  
POMS!"

"...KUN!"

...IN THE  
FUTURE...

"IT LOOKS  
LIKE YOU'D  
HIT SOMEONE  
IF YOU SPUN  
AROUND."

...YOU MAY  
BE CRUSHED  
BY THEM.

Ack!  
"HEY."

"TAKE  
THAT!"





SO JUST  
LEAVE IT.

IT CAN'T  
BE  
HELPED.

I HATE  
CAUSING  
PROBLEMS...

KURENO-  
SAN, I  
MEAN.

HE IS A LOT  
LIKE YOU.

...FOR  
PEOPLE  
LIKE YOU.

OKAY?

YOU'RE THE  
SAME KIND  
OF STUPID.

I MUST  
REALLY  
LIKE THAT  
KIND OF  
STUPID,  
HUH?

IT CAN'T  
BE  
HELPED.



...YOU  
IDIOT.

I LOVE  
YOU...



IT'S  
OKAY.

I DON'T  
MIND  
ANYMORE.

AND THIS  
TIME, I  
MEAN  
THAT.





THAT'S  
ALREADY  
MY CREED.

WELL,  
OBVIOUSLY.



OH! MAY I  
HELP WITH  
SOMETHING?

WELL,  
NOW.

SHALL WE  
START THIS  
PARTY?

EASY  
THERE.

I'M  
SURROUNDED  
BY OLDER  
WOMEN. HOW  
VERY EXCITING.



BAD BOY,  
MEGUMI.  
YOU HAVE  
TO SPEAK  
CAREFULLY  
IN TIMES  
LIKE THESE.

MEGUMI!

BUT...



ARE YOU  
SPEAKING OF  
A LOST LOVE,  
ARISA-SAN?

LO-CHAN...



NOTHING  
HAS BEEN  
A WASTE.

REALLY...



THERE  
ARE SOME  
THINGS  
THAT TAKE  
A LONG  
TIME TO  
ACQUIRE.

FRIENDS.

LOVES.

...MORNING  
STILL  
ALWAYS  
COMES.

LOVE IS  
DIFFICULT.

ALWAYS.

HAS THERE  
EVER BEEN  
A NIGHT  
THAT HAD  
NO DAWN?

INDEED...

WHATEVER  
HAPPENS IN  
THE NIGHT...

THEY  
FELL  
ASLEEP.

INDEED.

IT  
SEEMS...

THAT ARISA  
WAS GIVEN  
CLOSURE FOR HER  
OWN FEELINGS  
AS WELL.

SHE'S  
PROBABLY A  
BIT RELIEVED.

THAT  
MAY  
BE...

...ANOTHER  
STORY.

H.M.

I WONDER  
IF THE  
POSSIBILITY  
IS GONE?



I'M GLAD I  
GUESSED  
RIGHT.



IT WAS  
ALL BEAT  
UP ON THE  
GROUND.

In the  
street.



HUNH.

SO IT  
WAS  
YOURS.



HEY! THE  
THING'S  
NOT DRY  
YET!

まき。



PIFF

I  
WARNED  
YOU.



IF THE DIRT  
BOTHERS  
YOU, BUY A  
NEW ONE.



I KINDA  
WASHED  
IT, BUT  
IT DIDN'T  
GET VERY  
CLEAN.

UM...



ONE  
DAY AT  
A TIME.

LET'S  
START  
AGAIN.

SHIGURE-  
SAN?



I'M  
HOME!



IS THAT  
MY SCARF?

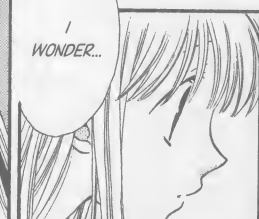
A  
SCARF!

Huh?!



IS HE  
STILL  
ASLEEP?

I  
WONDER...







I WANT TO KEEP GOING.

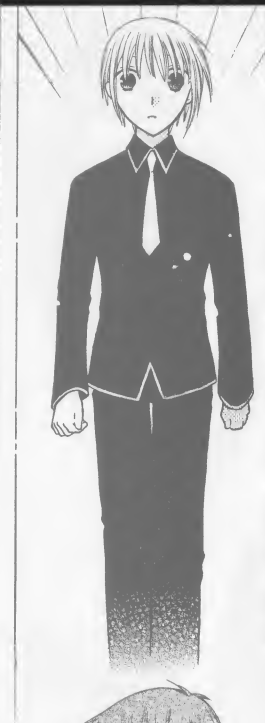
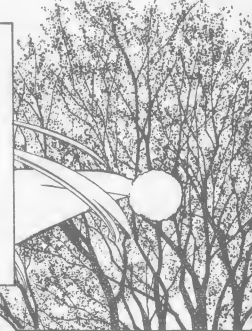


I WANT TO UNTANGLE THE CORDS, ONE BY ONE.

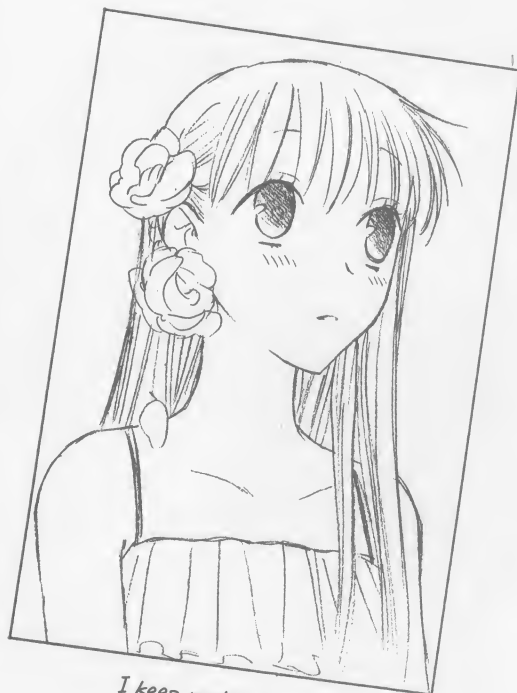


UO-CHAN!  
HANA-CHAN!

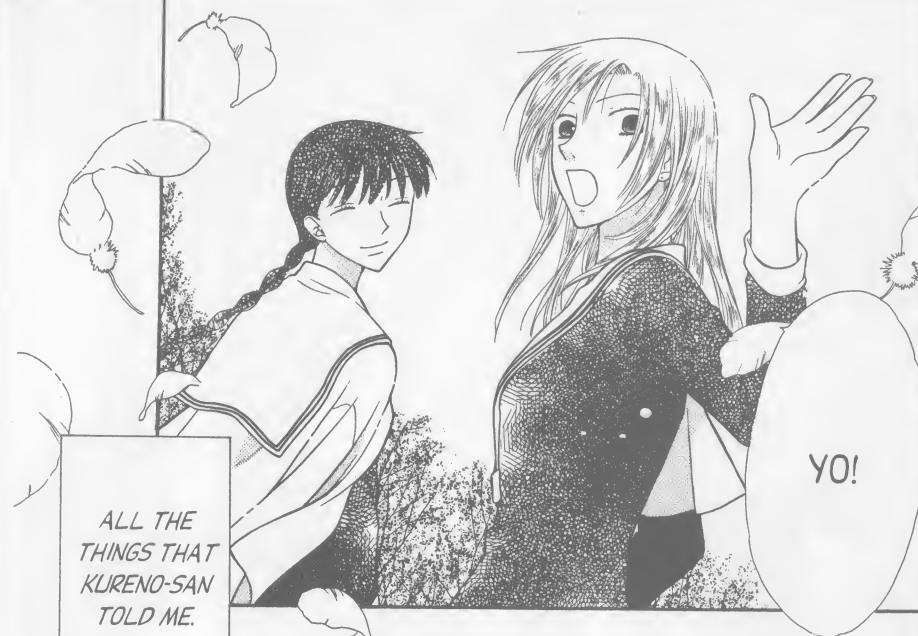
THE WORDS,  
THE FACTS...



Filler  
Sketch



I keep making her  
cause problems...



ALL THE  
THINGS THAT  
KURENO-SAN  
TOLD ME.

YO!

HE SAID SO  
MUCH.



MAYBE  
I AM  
LACKING IN  
TALENT.

I WAS THIS  
CLOSE TO  
BEING SENT  
TO HADES!

AND IF ASKED,  
I WOULD HAVE  
TO SAY THAT  
IT WAS AN  
ABSOLUTE  
TRAIN WRECK.

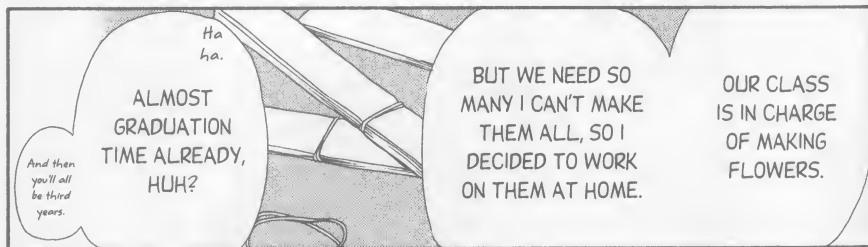
MAN. AFTER  
SEEING YUKI-  
KUN'S COOKING  
LAST NIGHT, I  
REMEMBERED  
HOW GRATEFUL  
I AM FOR YOU,  
TOHRU.

That evening.



Chapter 100





Filler Sketch



Now they're in a complicated love triangle.



YOU ASKED ME  
THE OTHER DAY,  
AND I ENDED  
UP BEING A DAY  
LATE. IT WAS  
TERRIBLY RUDE!

So  
please!

ARE THERE  
ANY ERRANDS  
YOU'D LIKE  
ME TO RUN  
TOMORROW?!

UH,  
UM,  
I MEAN...

ER...



"...WHO  
KNOW  
THAT  
AKITO IS A  
WOMAN..."

SHI...



DO YOU  
MIND IF  
I OPEN  
ONE UP?

YES, OF  
COURSE!

AS MANY  
AS YOU  
LIKE.

THE ONLY  
MEMBERS  
OF THE  
ZODIAC...



OKAY.

UM, THAT  
IS, N-NEXT  
TIME I'LL  
DO MY  
BEST,  
SO...!

But!



OKAY.

I-I'M  
GOING TO  
MAKE  
SOME  
TEA.

Um...



DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT IT.  
I'M FINE.

YOU  
BOUGHT THE  
ENVELOPES  
FOR ME  
THE NEXT  
MORNING,  
ANYWAY.

y--

Yes



OH!  
UH...



YEAH?



UM...

SHIGURE-  
SAN.

YES?

Continued →

\* Kimi-chan really thinks that all the men around her love her from the bottom of their hearts, all the women around her are there to make her look better by contrast, and that if they all like her, she can go out with as many people as she wants. She considers that permissible. It's nice that Kimi-chan is so honest with herself (laugh)!

\* I hope you can always be like that.

It's all right;  
I'm sure she will.



I CAN'T GO ALONG WITH THIS

GIVE ME A BREAK

\* Come to think of it, I don't think I've ever drawn this guy smiling...

Naohito.

\* With his father, mother, eldest sister (full-fledged member of society), and next older sister (college student), Nao-chan has a family of five.

→ To be continued



HONESTLY.



CAN I JUST RASHLY TALK ABOUT THOSE THINGS?

ESPECIALLY TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ZODIAC...



...WHO STILL DON'T KNOW.

...HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM THE CURSE.

...IT WAS LIKE PEERING DOWN INTO A DEEP, DARK WELL.

AKITO-SAN IS A WOMAN.

AND THERE ARE PROBLEMS BETWEEN HER AND HER MOTHER REN-SAN.

AND KURENO-SAN.



I CAN'T ASK HIM!

LIGH.



I UNDERSTAND.

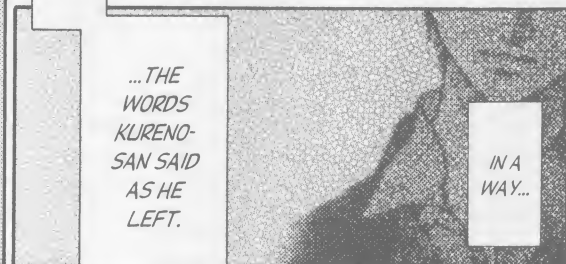
IT'S A DIFFICULT TOPIC TO BRING UP.



AND WHY SHOULD I ASK?

IT'S JUST... PRYING.

BE-SIDES...



...THE WORDS KURENO-SAN SAID AS HE LEFT.

IN A WAY...



IT LOOKS LIKE  
THERE'S STILL  
A LOT TO DO.  
BUT ISN'T IT  
FUN MAKING SO  
MUCH NOISE WITH  
EVERYBODY?

I GUESS IT'S  
SAD FOR THE  
THIRD YEARS,  
THOUGH--  
THEY  
HAVE TO  
GRADUATE.

I THINK  
YOU'RE...

YES!  
TWINS!

WE'RE  
TWINS!  
♡

SO'S MY  
CLASS.



Yuki-  
kun...



...RIGHT.

OF  
COURSE  
IT'S SAD!



Ha  
ha  
ha!

Ha  
ha!

SO  
TOHRU'S  
CLASS IS  
MAKING  
FLOWERS,  
TOO!



EVEN THOUGH HE HELPED SO MUCH...AND EVEN THOUGH I DON'T WANT TO KEEP THESE SECRETS...

I'M SORRY.

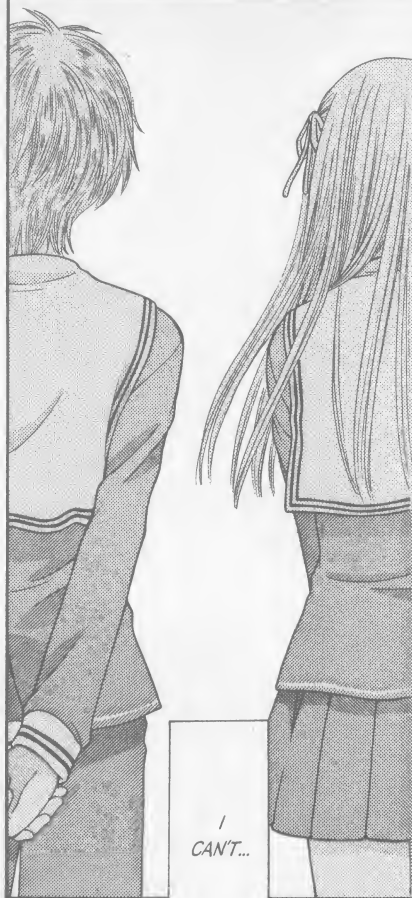


I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF ANYTHING I SHOULD SAY.



IF I TOLD THEM...

...WHAT WOULD THEY THINK?



I CAN'T...

...TELL MOMIJI-KUN, EITHER.

NOT EVEN ABOUT LIO-CHAN AND KURENO-SAN.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!  
POPPING UP OUT OF NOWHERE AND BEING AS RUDE AS YOU'VE EVER BEEN!

I can't do that!

JUST STAY BACK A GRADE.

AH!



PAPA WAS PANICKING AGAIN.

BUT WHEN MOMO GETS HERE...

...I'LL HAVE GRADUATED ALREADY.



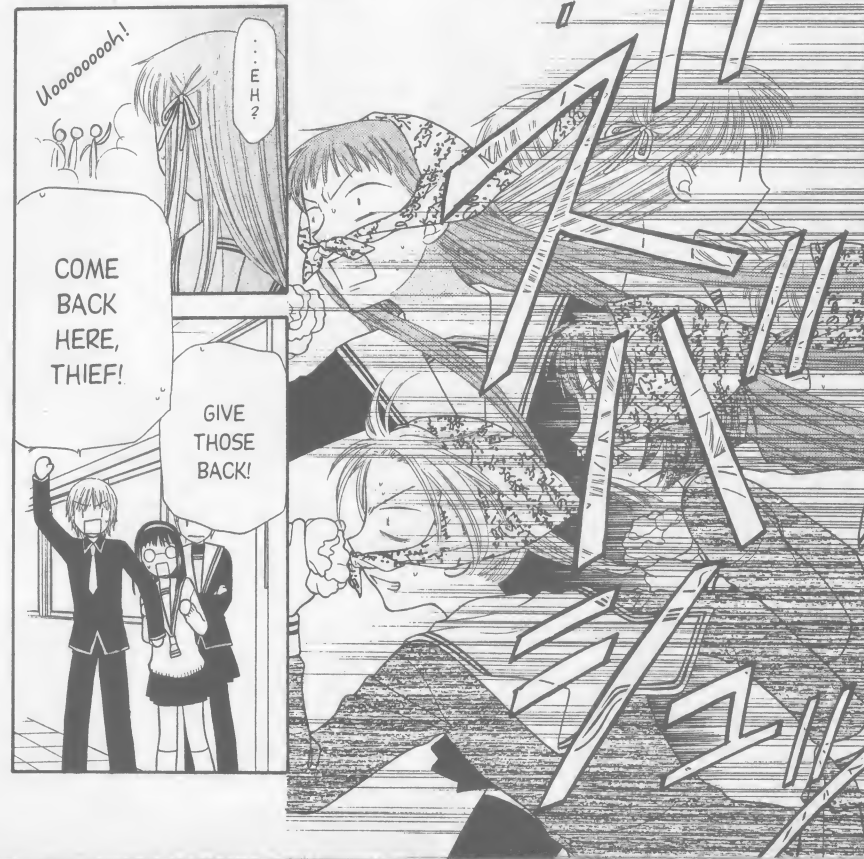
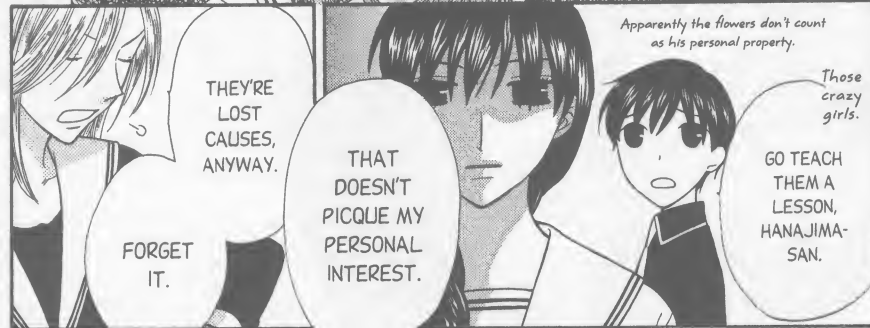
I WAS THINKING ABOUT STAYING BACK A GRADE, TOO.

WHAT?!

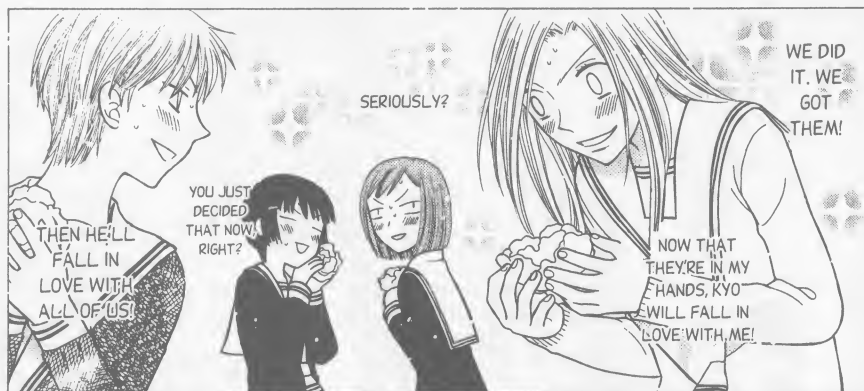


BECAUSE OF MOMO, Y'KNOW?

I HEAR SHE WANTS TO COME TO THIS SCHOOL!







THEN HE'LL  
FALL IN  
LOVE WITH  
ALL OF US!

YOU JUST  
DECIDED  
THAT NOW,  
RIGHT?

SERIOUSLY?

WE DID  
IT. WE  
GOT  
THEM!

NOW THAT  
THEY'RE IN MY  
HANDS, KYO  
WILL FALL IN  
LOVE WITH ME!



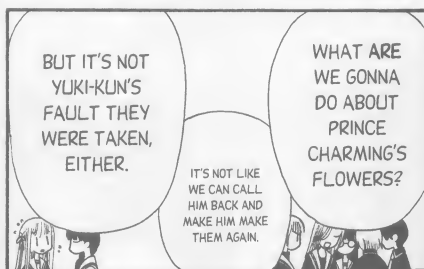
I have  
extra  
paper.

Dammit.

THIS  
ISN'T  
FUNNY!

What a pain.

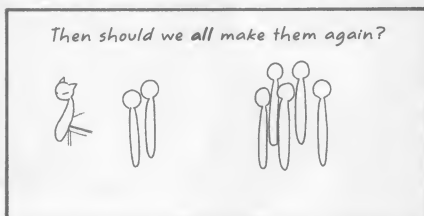
AT ANY  
RATE,  
YOU'D  
BETTER  
REDO  
THEM.



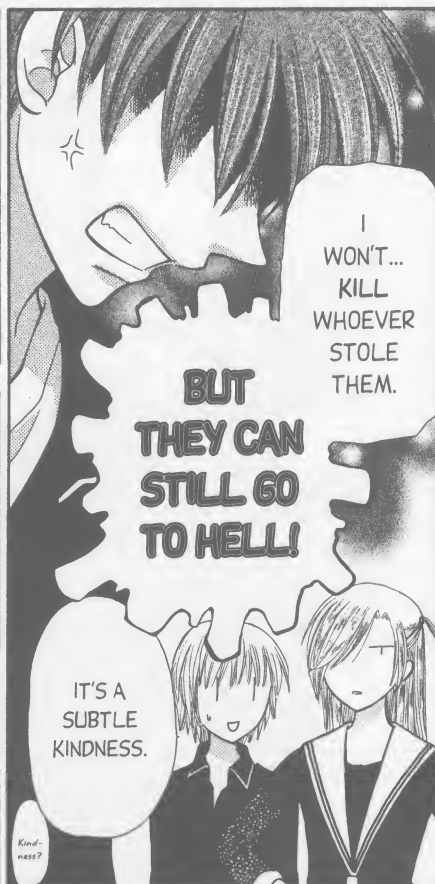
BUT IT'S NOT  
YUKI-KUN'S  
FAULT THEY  
WERE TAKEN,  
EITHER.

IT'S NOT LIKE  
WE CAN CALL  
HIM BACK AND  
MAKE HIM MAKE  
THEM AGAIN.

WHAT ARE  
WE GONNA  
DO ABOUT  
PRINCE  
CHARMING'S  
FLOWERS?



Then should we all make them again?



I  
WON'T...  
KILL  
WHOEVER  
STOLE  
THEM.

**BUT  
THEY CAN  
STILL GO  
TO HELL!**

IT'S A  
SUBTLE  
KINDNESS.

Kind-  
ness?



NOT AGAIN  
WITH THIS.  
IT WAS HIS  
STUFF THAT  
GOT STOLEN.

BUT PRINCE  
CHARMING WENT  
TO STUDENT  
COUNCIL.

He looked  
busy.

HOW IS  
THAT MY  
PROBLEM?

I ONLY  
FINISHED  
MINE...



**WHY  
ARE  
THEY  
GONE?!**

DON'T LOOK  
AT ME.

I don't  
have a  
clue.

SON  
OF A...  
WHERE'D  
THEY  
GO?!

HEH  
HEH  
HEH.



JUST  
MAKE UP  
FOR THE  
LOSS,  
KYON.

HUH?



...NOW.

Gone.



IT LOOKS LIKE IT HAS A LITTLE WAY TO GO.

WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?

YES! WE'LL DO OUR BEST!



REALLY?!

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN HELP WITH?



O-OH, NO. WE COULDN'T POSSIBLY ASK FOR YOUR HELP!

Right!

WE COULDN'T MAKE YOU HELP, PRESIDENT!

Right!



HUH?

YEAH!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THOSE GIRLS?!

A  
G  
H  
!

LET'S CHASE 'EM DOWN!



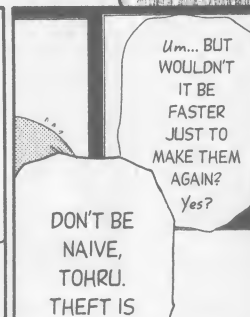
EH?!

P-protect? Protect? what?!

TOHRLI, YOU PROTECT THE STUFF HERE!

LET'S DO THIS! HANAJIMA, YOU'RE COMING!

IF YOU'RE IN NEED OF MY BATTLE PROWESS...



Um... BUT WOULDN'T IT BE FASTER JUST TO MAKE THEM AGAIN? Yes?

DON'T BE NAIVE, TOHRLI. THEFT IS A CRIME!

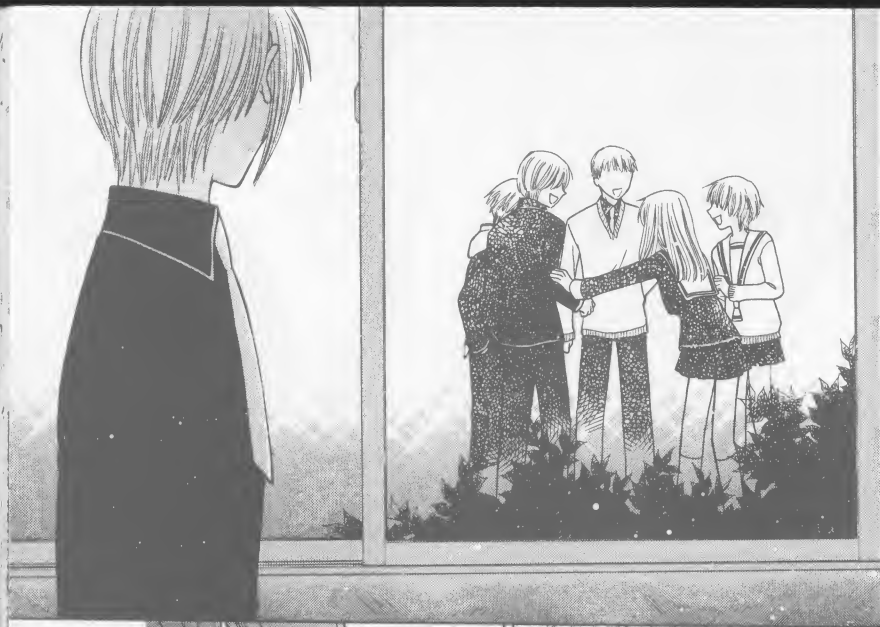


THEY'LL COME BACK EVENTUALLY..

JUST WAIT, OKAY?



SHE JUST DOESN'T WANNA MAKE 'EM AGAIN.



AND I'M SURE  
YOU'RE BUSY  
WITH OTHER  
THINGS,  
SOHMA.

WE'RE  
FINE  
HERE.



Ha ha! He  
talked to  
me! Yess!  
Can't even  
converse  
anymore.



HELP?

OH, NO,  
WE'RE  
FINE.

WE  
COULDN'T  
MAKE YOU  
HELP, YUKI.



UH...



You're  
such an  
idiot!

Ha  
ha  
ha!



THAT  
LOOKS  
FLN.



JEEZ.

Mwa  
ha  
ha  
ha!  
Woo!

THEY DON'T  
HAVE TO BE  
SO WORRIED  
ABOUT ME.

Not that it's  
anything new.





NO.

WAIT A  
SECOND.



I'M SORRY.  
DID YOU  
NEED ME FOR  
SOMETHING?

OH!

YOU MEAN  
YOU WERE  
LOOKING  
FOR ME?



I  
WANTED  
TO SAY  
HELLO.



YOU RAN  
AROUND  
LOOKING FOR  
ME WHEN YOU  
DIDN'T NEED  
ANYTHING?

I DID...  
HAVE SOME-  
THING.

WHICH  
IS IT?



I JUST  
THOUGHT...

I  
NOTICED  
YOU.

AND I  
JUST...

...I'D  
SAY  
HELLO.



HUH?

UH...

MACHI.



WHEN...

YOU SURPRISED ME.  
WHAT'S WRONG?  
WHY ARE YOU  
OUT OF BREATH?

Where are  
you going?



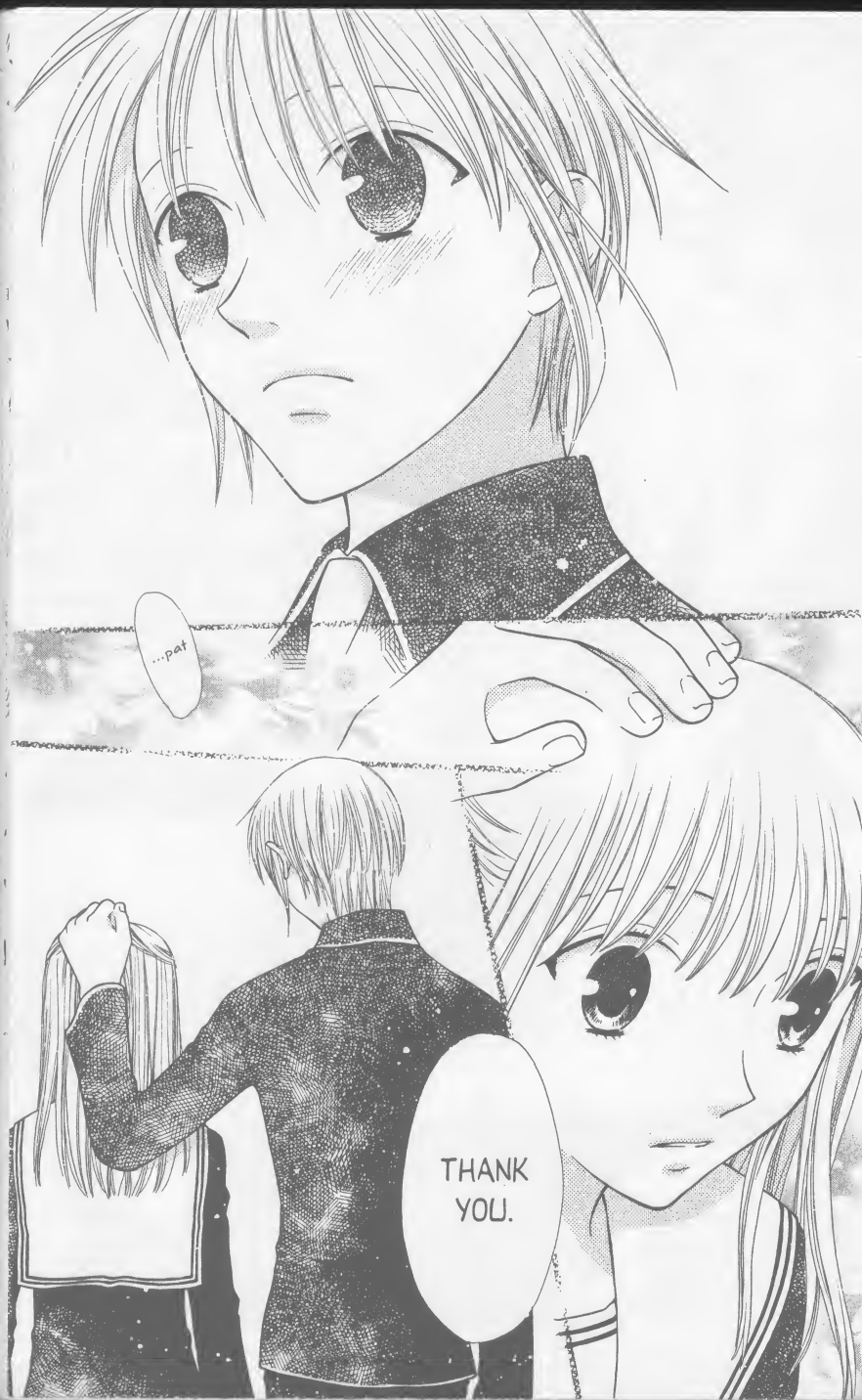
HUH?

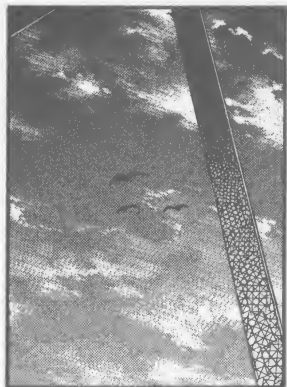
WHEN  
YOU  
WANDER  
AROUND...

...IN A  
STRANGE  
PATTERN...

...AND I  
CAN'T  
PREDICT  
WHERE  
YOU'LL  
GO...

...AND  
I LOSE  
SIGHT OF  
YOU...





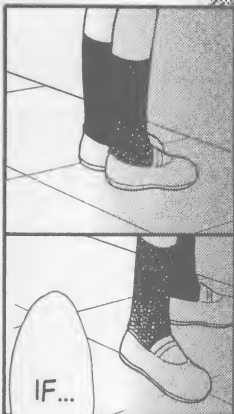
I BET THEY  
FOUND  
ANOTHER  
GAME  
AND GOT  
SIDETRACKED.

I THINK  
THOSE  
GUYS LIVE  
FOR THE  
MOMENT.

Oh..  
I'M SURE  
THAT'S  
NOT IT.  
Really.

"...HAS  
ALREADY  
BEEN  
BROKEN."

"MY  
CURSE..."



IF...



NN?

K-

KYO-  
KUN.

...



WHAT WAS  
THAT FOR?

AND  
WHAT'S  
THIS?

IT'S A  
FLOWER!

OW!

WOW...IS IT  
REALLY?

It's worse  
than the ones  
I made.

IT'S A  
FLOWER!

Investi-  
gation?  
C'mon.

MADE THEIR  
INVESTIGATION  
ISN'T GOING  
VERY WELL..

WHAT'RE  
THEY  
DOING?!

ARGH!  
THEY'RE  
TAKING  
FOREVER!

.....



HEY!  
WHY'RE  
YOU ALL  
DEPRESSED  
NOW?!

HUH?

WHAT  
DO I  
DO?

I'M NOT  
ACTUALLY  
MAD OR  
ANYTHING!

WAS IT HOW  
I SAID IT?!  
WAS THERE  
SOMETHING  
WRONG  
WITH HOW  
I SAID IT?!

WAIT!  
DON'T...  
JUST DON'T  
APOLOGIZE!

I'M  
SORRY!

I'M SORRY...  
IT WAS  
THOUGHTLESS  
OF ME.

N-  
NO.

W--

WHAT  
WOULD  
YOU THINK?

UM...

...WHOSE  
ZODIAC  
CURSE WAS  
BROKEN...

IF THERE  
WAS SOME-  
BODY...

WHAT  
WOULD I  
THINK?

I  
DUNNO.

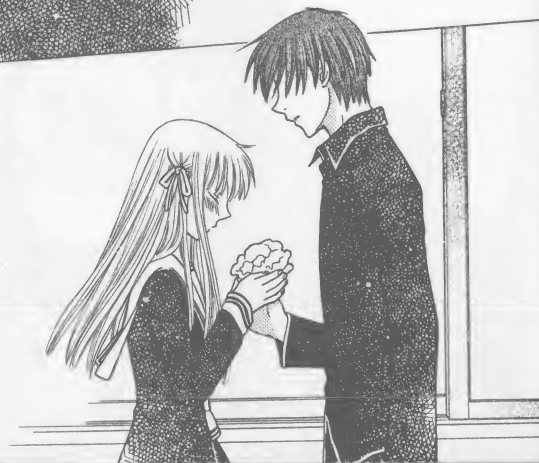
WHAT'RE  
YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?

DON'T ASK  
"WHAT IF'S"  
ABOUT  
THAT  
CURSE  
STUFF.

CUT IT  
OUT.



"...ABOUT  
YOU."



I FEEL  
LIKE...

BUT I  
CAN'T  
FACE  
HIM.

I DON'T  
WANT TO  
TROUBLE  
HIM.

NO.

LOOK,  
I'M  
SORRY.

I'M JUST  
KINDA  
DIRECT,  
OKAY?

...I'M  
GOING  
TO CRY.

Rufie





WELL,  
NOT THAT  
I MADE  
IT ALL  
MYSELF.



WAIT.

DO  
YOU...

REMEM-  
BER...?



REMEMBER  
WHAT?



...



YOU MAY NOT  
BE FAMILIAR  
WITH THIS  
KIND OF THING,  
AKITO-SAN.

IT'S AN  
EASY-  
TO-MAKE  
FLOWER.

I GOT YOU  
A LITTLE  
GIFT.

"ABOUT  
YOU."

HI.

HOW  
ARE YOU  
FEELING?

It was  
a fair  
judgment.

Yeah.

THEY'RE JUST  
HAPPY WE  
DIDN'T TAKE  
THE STOLEN  
ONES BACK.

In a  
good  
way.

BUT  
I'M  
TIRED.

IT WAS  
VERY  
REWARD-  
ING.

WE'VE APPRE-  
HENDED THE  
CRIMINALS!



WE'VE  
RESOLVED  
THE CASE  
WITHOUT  
INCIDENT!

WHAT  
HAPPENED?!

WE CAN  
LEAVE  
NOW,  
TOHRU-  
KUN.

Let's  
go.



WE  
CAUGHT  
THE  
THIEVES  
AND ALL.

THEN WE  
FORCED THEM  
TO MAKE  
AS MANY  
FLOWERS AS  
THEY TOOK.





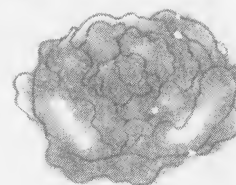
## Chapter 101



"I CARE  
ABOUT YOU."

"AND THAT IS  
THE HONEST..."

"...AND  
UNSHAKABLE  
TRUTH."





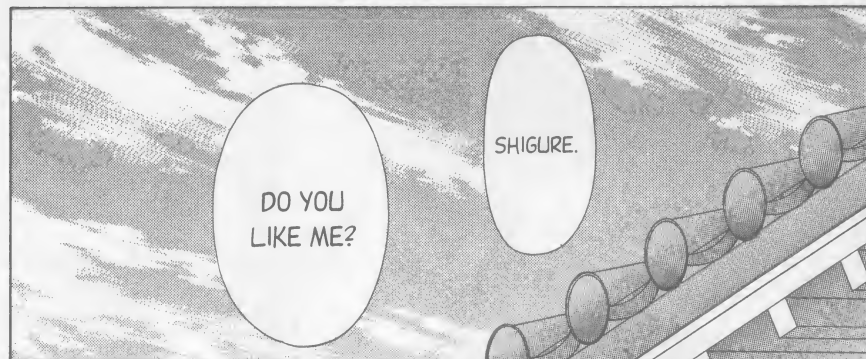
DO YOU  
LIKE ME?



HM.

ARE YOU  
ASKING  
EVERYONE IN  
THE ZODIAC  
THAT?

I ASKED  
YOU A  
QUESTION.



DO YOU  
LIKE ME?

SHIGURE.





OH.



WE'LL BE  
ARRIVING  
AT THE  
RESTAURANT  
SOON.

THEY SAID  
EVERYONE  
ELSE HAS  
ALREADY  
ARRIVED.

THEY'RE  
WAITING  
FOR YOU,  
AKITO.



AKITO.

I LOVE  
YOU.

...



I CARE  
ABOUT  
YOU.

MORE  
THAN  
I CARE  
ABOUT  
ANYONE.



AND  
THAT  
IS THE  
HONEST...

...AND  
UNSHAKABLE  
TRUTH.



Continued →

• I made Nao-chan a boy who has no relation to the axis of the story as well. That makes me think Nao-chan is uselessly lively, too.

• Women are the majority in his family, and he grew up with his two older sisters taking loving care of him (laugh).

• He's worked like a slave, always being told to go buy this or go get that.

• I think it may be one of Nao-chan's good traits that, even while he's complaining about it, he'll grant their requests.

• But him liking "that person" might actually be because he has a sister complex.

• Kakeru thinks he's taking loving care of him, too, in the way he treats him.

• From the reader's point of view, it might be irritating to have a character whose heart isn't complete yet, but from the writer's perspective, it's pretty fun.

WHAT? HEH HEH.

YOU WERE THINKING SUCH A WEIRD THING IN THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART?

In the drama CD, she pretended to be modest, didn't she?



I WONDER IF I SHOULD TALK TO ISUZU-SAN.

I'M SORRY!

I'M SURE I CAN DISCUSS IT WITH HER.

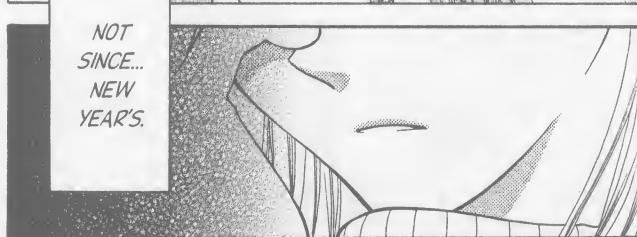


BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...



I HAVEN'T SEEN HER LATELY.

NOT SINCE... NEW YEAR'S.



はっ

IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER?

ISUZU-SAN...

RIN?



TO THINK I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT HER UNTIL NOW.

BUT ISUZU-SAN...

I BLURTED THAT WITHOUT THINKING.

OH, OKAY. YOU STARTLED ME.

MY MIND WAS JUST WANDERING. IT'S NOTHING AT ALL!

I beg your pardon!

Eek! No!



EVEN THOUGH ISUZU-SAN IS DESPERATE TO BREAK THE CURSE TOO!

I thought something happened.

GOSH.





THOSE  
WERE YOUR  
PARENTS?!

SORRY TO  
SAY, BUT  
I HAVE  
PARENTS,  
TOO.  
Even me.



THAT'S RIGHT.  
EVEN THE  
DIFFERENCE IN  
SOCIAL STATUS  
BETWEEN YOU  
AND RITCHAN IS  
TREMENDOUS.

THE SOHMAS  
SEEM LIKE AN  
INCREDIBLE  
FAMILY.  
*I always  
thought as  
much.*

Oh-  
Main  
house...  
dinner...



THE GREAT  
HEAD  
OF THE  
FAMILY  
MAKES HIS  
ENTRANCE.

OH,  
LOOK.

No!  
I WANT TO  
SEE THEM  
AGAIN! I  
WASN'T  
PAYING  
ATTENTION!

DON'T BOTHER.  
I'M SURE  
THEY'LL JUST  
SHOO AWAY  
OUTSIDERS.

PEOPLE  
CHOSEN  
FROM THE  
MAIN HOUSE  
ARE HAVING  
DINNER  
TOGETHER  
TONIGHT.  
*You have  
the worst  
taste in  
restaurants,  
Mitchan.*



WAIT,  
SHIGURE!

...OH.

MY  
EDITOR'S  
HERE,  
SO I'D  
BETTER--



YOU'RE JOKING,  
RIGHT?  
WHERE'S  
THE FUN IN  
DRINKING WITH  
YOUR OWN  
PARENTS?

ERM.

IF THEY'RE  
FRIENDS OF  
YOURS, WHY  
DON'T YOU  
GO DRINKING  
WITH THEM?  
*You know.*



NO, THAT  
WOULD  
JUST END  
UP GOING  
TOO LONG.

LET'S  
GO.

AT LEAST  
SAY HELLO  
TO AKITO-  
SAN.

HUH?  
BUT...





I TOLD HIM TO SAY HELLO, BUT...

SHOULD I GO AFTER HIM?

LEAVE IT.

COME ON, KURENO.



WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN? ARE YOU SAYING THAT IF YOU'RE OLDER THAN TWENTY YOU'RE NOT YOUNG?! HE'S SO YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL!

I MEAN--NEVER MIND! IT'S RUDE TO CALL A MAN BEAUTIFUL.

NO, I WAS JUST THINKING THAT HE'S SO YOUNG!

REALLY? HE SHOULD BE IN HIS TWENTIES.

*I'm sure of that.*

PALE AS A GHOST, ISN'T HE?

YEAH.



NOW, THEN! WHERE SHOULD WE GO FOR A DRINK?

WHAT? BUT SENSE!

OOHHH, PLEASE, NO MORE WEIRD PLACES!



HE'S SO  
DESPERATE  
IT'S SAD.

HE  
WOULDN'T  
WANT  
PEOPLE TO  
FIND OUT.

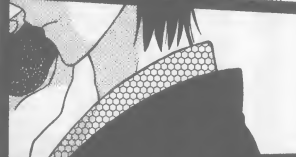
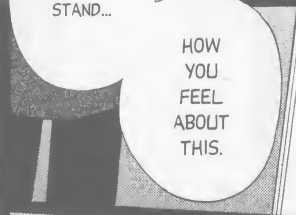
THAT WOULD  
GIVE HIM  
MORE REASON  
TO KEEP YOU  
BY HIS SIDE  
FOREVER.

NII-  
SAN...

I THINK  
I UNDER-  
STAND...

HOW  
YOU  
FEEL  
ABOUT  
THIS.

I HATE  
YOU VERY  
MUCH.



AND I  
KNOW  
THAT YOU  
HATE ME.

I DO  
HATE  
YOU.

BUT--



ISN'T  
THAT  
NICE?

AND YOU  
SHOULD BE  
GRATEFUL  
THAT I'M BEING  
SO HONEST  
WITH YOU.

NOW YOU  
CAN PRETEND  
TO BE  
DISAPPOINTED  
TO YOUR  
HEART'S  
CONTENT.



"DON'T YOU  
THINK YOU  
SHOULD'VE  
LEFT HIM?"

"FOR AKITO-  
SAN'S  
SAKE."

"AND  
NOT  
JUST  
THEN."

"FOR HIS  
SAKE  
NOW."



DID YOU  
KNOW I WAS  
RELEASED  
FROM THE  
CURSE?

...VERY  
SURPRISED.

YOU  
DON'T  
SEEM...



BUT NOW THAT  
I'M HEARING IT, I  
FEEL A LITTLE  
BETTER.

H.M.

BUT IT WAS  
JUST A HUNCH,  
UNFORTUNATELY.

IT WOULD  
BE NICE IF I  
COULD SAY  
SOMETHING  
THAT MADE  
ME LOOK  
THAT GOOD.





WELCOME HOME.

WELCOME HOME...

AKITO-SAN.

WELCOME BACK.



HERE IS FINE.

JUST KEEP EVERYONE AWAY.

OF COURSE.

EVEN NOW.

THE ONE HE REALLY WANTS IS...

I WANT YOU TO STOP TREATING HIM SO COLDLY.

AKITO DOESN'T KEEP ME BY HIS SIDE BECAUSE HE LIKES ME.

I MEAN...

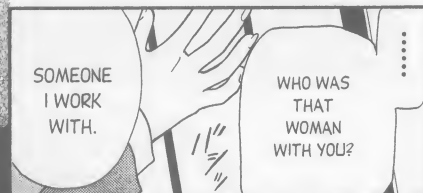
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THE SAME THING.

NII-SAN.

I HOPE...

...YOU WON'T ABANDON AKITO.







...AND  
AWAY  
FROM  
ME!

YOU WERE  
LOOKING FOR  
AN EXCUSE  
TO LEAVE,  
WEREN'T  
YOU?!

YOU  
WANTED  
TO GET  
AWAY!

AWAY  
FROM  
HERE...



YOU LIKE  
THAT  
WOMAN  
BETTER  
THAN--

YOU  
LIKE  
HER.

SHIGURE.

THAT'S  
WHY YOU  
AND THAT  
WOMAN  
WENT AND...

"I CARE  
ABOUT  
YOU."

"MORE  
THAN  
I CARE  
ABOUT  
ANYONE."



I  
MEAN  
REN!



AND THAT'S  
WHY I'M  
LIVING IN  
THAT HOUSE.

LISTEN  
TO YOU.

YOU LEFT  
WITHOUT  
RESISTING  
IN THE  
SLIGHTEST!

YOU TOLD  
ME TO GET  
OUT OF HERE,  
REMEMBER?

AND YOU  
ALREADY  
PUNISHED  
ME FOR IT.

THAT  
WAS A  
LONG  
TIME  
AGO.

HOW  
DARE  
YOU?!

HOW DARE  
YOU DO THAT  
WITH HER?!

"...I WANT TO  
SPOIL HER  
ROTTEN."

"I LOVE  
AKITO."

"THEN  
AND  
NOW."

I'M  
SPECIAL!

"I  
LOVE  
HER."

I'M FREE  
TO DO  
WHATEVER I  
WANT WITH  
MY ZODIAC!

I CAN DO  
ANYTHING  
I WANT!

"I LOVE  
HER SO  
MUCH..."

WHAT?

WHAT  
DO  
YOU...

ARE YOU  
SAYING  
THIS IS MY  
FAULT?!

I DIDN'T DO  
ANYTHING  
WRONG!

DON'T  
MAKE THIS  
MY FAULT!

"DON'T  
MIS-  
UNDER-  
STAND,  
KURENO."

I...  
THOUGHT  
YOU  
FORGOT.

I NEVER  
SAID I'D  
FORGOTTEN.

IS THAT  
WHY YOU'VE  
BEEN SO  
ANGRY ALL  
THIS TIME?

"AND THAT  
IS THE  
HONEST..."

"...AND  
UNSHAKABLE  
TRUTH."

I'M NOT  
TESTING  
YOU.

WHY DO YOU  
TEST ME  
LIKE THAT?!

WHY?!

...IS BECAUSE  
YOU SLEPT  
WITH  
KURENO.

THE REASON  
I SLEPT  
WITH THAT  
WOMAN...

DON'T  
YOU GET  
IT?





...

FOR SOMEONE  
WHO'S  
DENIED HER  
"WOMANHOOD"...

...YOU SURE  
DO RESORT...

...TO  
USING IT  
QUICKLY.

"I'LL  
BE  
HERE."



WE'LL  
JUST KEEP  
REPEATING  
THE SAME  
THINGS  
THAT WE  
ALWAYS DO.

.....

IF  
YOU DON'T  
UNDER-  
STAND...

THEN  
LET'S  
STOP  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
THIS.

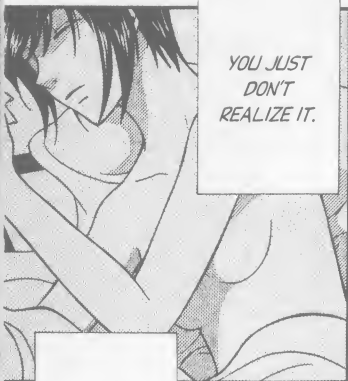
I'LL GO  
HOME  
FOR  
TODAY.

THAT'LL  
ONLY MAKE  
YOUR MOOD  
WORSE.

.....  
!!



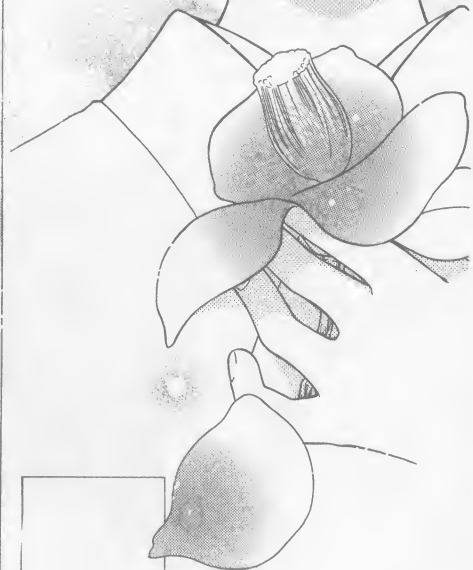
"I WANT TO  
TRAMPLE HER  
TO A PULP."



YOU JUST  
DON'T  
REALIZE IT.



JUST LIKE  
THAT DAY.



I'LL  
ALWAYS  
BE HERE.



"I'LL  
BE  
HERE."



FOR  
ETER-  
NITY  
...

...I'LL  
BE  
HERE.



I  
MISSED  
YOU.

I'M  
ALWAYS  
THINKING  
OF YOU.



...BE  
WAITING.



RIGHT  
HERE.



I'LL  
ALWAYS...



HEY, IS SOHMA-  
SAN GONNA  
BE ABLE TO  
GRADUATE?

I...I SEE.  
THANK  
YOU VERY  
MUCH.

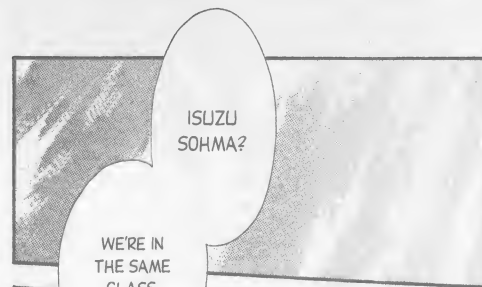


I'M SURE HER  
FAMILY'LL  
PAY THE  
SCHOOL WHEN  
THE TIME  
COMES.

ANYWAY, DO  
YOU THINK  
THAT GIRL  
IS SOHMA-  
SAN'S  
FRIEND?

SHE'S GOT  
A FRIEND?  
NO WAY!

You're  
awful!  
ha ha!



ISUZU  
SOHMA?

WE'RE IN  
THE SAME  
CLASS,  
BUT...



SHE HASN'T  
BEEN TO  
SCHOOL IN  
A WHILE.



EH?

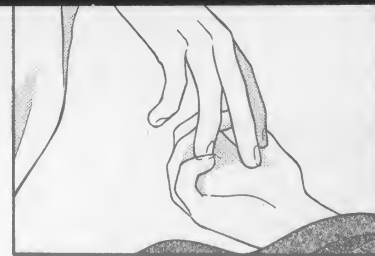
WAS IT THAT  
SHE WENT  
BACK TO THE  
HOSPITAL?



WEREN'T  
THEY  
TREATING  
HER FOR  
SOMETHING?

WAIT! SHE  
WENT FAR  
AWAY, I  
THINK.

What?  
Come on!



I'M  
WAITING.



I feel so  
grateful!  
☺

...She says.

Harada-sama, Araki-sama,  
Mother-sama, Editor-sama

And everyone who reads and  
supports this manga.

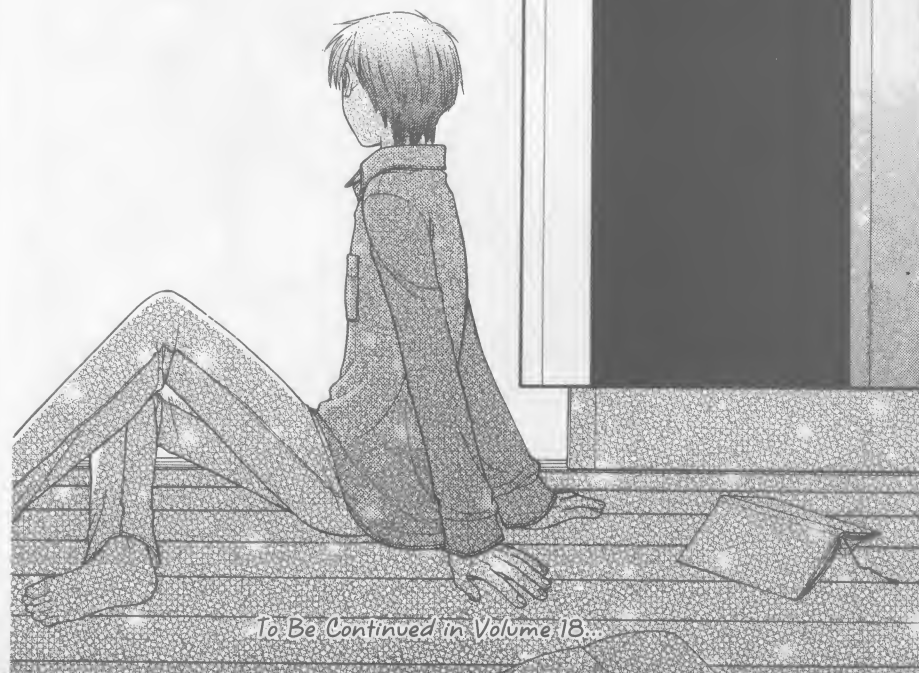
Next is the one whom I feel is now  
completely recognized as "Kyo's father."

This has been...

高屋 奈月 でした  
Natsuki Takaya.

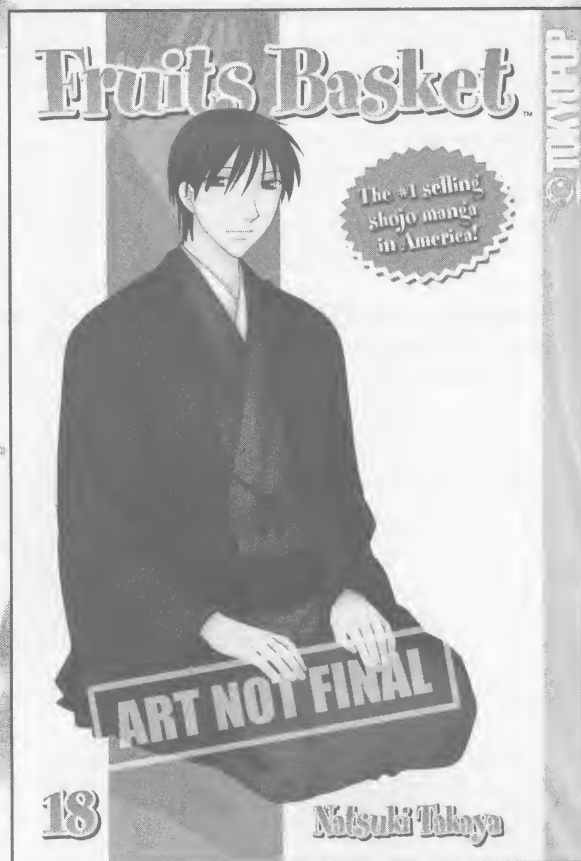
I'LL BE  
WAITING...

...FOR  
YOU.



To Be Continued in Volume 18.

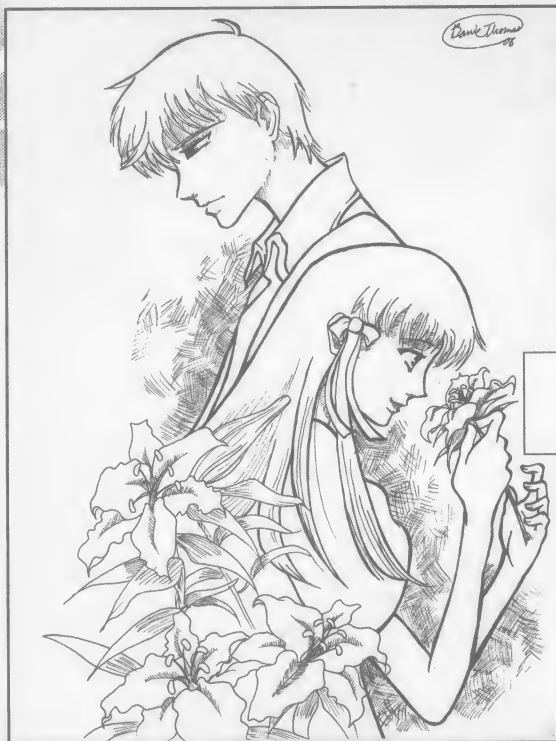
Next time in...



Everyone knows Rin is in the hospital...or is she? While Hatsuharu searches for Isuzu, he discovers that Isuzu had planned to swipe an item from Akito... an item that might just allow her to break the curse! So, what has actually happened to Rin? Read Fruits Basket 18 to find out!

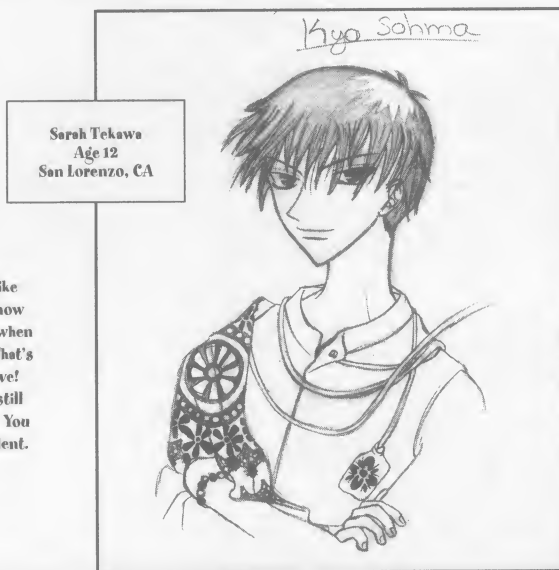
**Fruits Basket Volume 18**  
Available November 2007





Excellent pen and ink work, Barrie.  
Your flowers look amazing! Thanks  
for being such a great fan!

Barrie Thomas  
Age 19  
Menifee, CA



Sarah Tekawa  
Age 12  
San Lorenzo, CA

Sarah would like  
everyone to know  
that she was 11 when  
she drew this. That's  
very impressive!  
I hope you're still  
drawing, Sarah. You  
have a lot of talent.

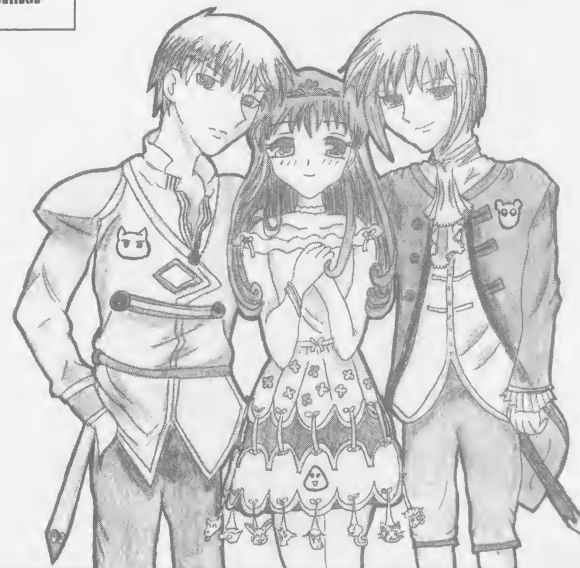
# Fans Basket

Wow! Volume 17 sure had some shockers, huh? How many of you were suspicious of Akito, I wonder? I'd really like to see some drawings of Akito as a woman, in her true gender! As usual, I have a never-ending mountain of "Fans Basket" mail to dig through... If your art gets picked, it's pretty much just the luck of the draw! But I honestly do read everything you send, and even if it's not ever printed, it probably put a smile on my face. So thanks! Okay, so let's see what's been chosen for this volume!

Oh! And don't stop reading after you've seen all the fan art! Thanks to TOKYOPOP copy editor Stephanie Duchin, we have a Furuba-themed "Cosplay Special" at the end of this volume! Enjoy!

- Paul Morrissey, Editor

Navy H.  
Age 16  
Calgary, Canada



6/27/06

Take a really close look at Tohru's skirt... What a fun way to include the other *Fruits Basket* characters in your piece, Navy! I also really like the badges worn by Yuki and Kyo!





M. Morrigan Murphy  
Age 23  
Boston, MA

Another really stunning piece of artwork. Your tones and brushwork look fantastic, M. I really like the sleeping dog curled up next to Shigure.



Ashley Randall  
Age 17  
Dundee, MI

Wow! Ashley made a Kyo scarecrow! How cool is that? According to Ashley, "His glare keeps the birds and rats away!"



Gorgeous art. Evetta! Kiso has rarely looked as adorable. And her tiger looks sooooo cute. Great work!

Evetta  
Age 18  
Chula Vista, CA

Kisa Sohma